

Issue #23

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WINGS



VENGEANCE RISING



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Deliverance
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Tempest
And More!



"Give The Band A New Name"
Contest! Details Inside



Russell Smith in front of the big press.
This one prints both sides of the page in one pass.



Steve Schmutzer and wife, Laura.

Meet The Press

We thought you might enjoy getting a chance to see some of the people behind the scenes at Heaven's Metal Magazine. Here's pictures of: Russell Smith, who acts as the printing middleman; Steve Schmutzer, who does the nice artwork; and your's truly, the editor.

Russell used to print HM on the press where he works, until Issue #20. Since then, it's been printed at Grassroots Marketing here in Austin. Russell is the one who takes my layout and photos and delivers it to the printers, explaining in proper printer's terms exactly what I want done. He also acts as a quality control agent of sorts, overseeing the job in its various stages. He's really helped me learn a lot of inside poop about the printing trade.

Steve Schmutzer has been doing graphic art for HM since Issue #10. He's really helped the visual quality of the magazine with his imaginative and "made to order" drawings. Before every issue, I will tell Steve what the title and theme are for the Gospel piece, and what my ideas are for the image...and he'll send me the artwork that you see on the back cover of each issue.

Besides providing good, quality work for the magazine, both Russell and Steve have been good, quality friends.

Myself, well shucks. I'm 26 years old and love Jesus. I've been redeemed by the precious shed blood of my Master--Jesus, I've been adopted by my Father in Heaven, and I'm being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. I've got a great cat, named "Holiness", that's 18 and a half years old. I've been publishing HM for over four and a half years now. Besides writing about Christian metal, I really appreciate classical music, fine art, and silly humor.

Well, there you have it, some of the faces behind the scenes.



Who's the weirdest of them all? Editor Doug Van Pelt, Larry Farkas of Vengeance, and Fernando Hernandez of Paradox all show their vote. (Photo by Kirk Crippens)



Issue Number 23

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Artists: Steve Schmutzer

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Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly magazine that covers the world of Christian heavy metal. Jesus is Lord.

Special thanks this issue to: Russell Smith for all his help with printing, etc; Grassroots Marketing for the quality printing; Ed McTaggart for the awesome artwork for the covers of this issue and #22; Frontline Music Group for their participation in the cover art and the contest giveaways; Tony Shore for having a good answer for the Garden Grove Police Department; Michelle Vargas for the help processing the prayer partner requests; Leviticus Forces Fan Club for mailing all my Scandinavian subscriptions; Thomas Cogdale for the constructive criticism and layout ideas (and those great grilled cheese/apple sandwiches!); Vicki and Dennis Salmon for helping sell Heaven's Metal at the Texas booth at Cornerstone; Glenn Kaiser for the public recommendation of the Accountability

article; Malcolm at Christian Music Product for mailing copies to the Aussie and Kiwi subscribers; Todd and Reel Visions; Rae Lynn Sims for the excellent photos; Jubika Records in Germany for mailing all the West German and Swiss subscriptions; First United Methodist Church in Niceville, Florida for having me talk to their youth group; Mom for helping tally up the Reader's Poll results so far; and you, the Heaven's Metal reader.

Heaven's Metal is available on a subscription basis and on sale at some newsstands. If you do not see it displayed at your local Christian bookstore, inform the magazine buyer that Heaven's Metal is available through Spring Arbor's magazine program. If you'd like to see Heaven's Metal sold in your local secular record shops and newsstands, ask an employee who their distributor is and send me the name, address, and phone number, if possible.

There are a few Back Issues of HM available. They are: #18 (Illinois Noise *); #19; #20; and #22 (* means available in limited quantities, with a maximum order of three). Each copy is \$2.95 (Foreign orders add \$3 Air Mail postage).

Heaven's Metal T-Shirts are again available! This time you can wear the HM logo and the "Worship At Full Volume" slogan on black, yellow, light blue, or sleeveless red shirts. The design is on the front side of the 50/50 knit t-shirts. The yellow, blue, and red shirts have black ink, while the black shirts have screamin' white ink. Send \$10 (Foreign orders add \$2 Air Mail postage).

Don't forget the Heaven's Metal But-

tons either! They come in red, blue, and yellow and are \$1 each (Plus 25 cents postage. Foreign orders send 45 cents Air Mail postage).

Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two Prayer Partners. I take the names directly above and below yours on the master subscription list, who have been designated to pray for you and vice-versa. Write in if you'd like their names and addresses.

If you'd be willing to make copies of a Heaven's Metal flyer to post around your town, dorm, etc, write in and I'll send you a master copy.

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If you'd like to buy a gift subscription for someone as a present, I have one-year and two-year gift certificates that you may present the recipient with. Please indicate on your order if you'd like one of these certificates.

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Note: Whenever writing about adjusting your Heaven's Metal subscription, list the issue number that your current subscription expires with, if possible.



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LANGUAGE KEY

In order to understand this interview better, it may be beneficial to know the definitions of some of the words Roger has in his vocabulary.

Wailing - "It's something that's definitely happening, something that's cool. Another use for that term is a heavy guitar solo. Cranking is a synonym for wailing."

Gnarly - "It's like an indescribable. It's another way to say 'wailing.' If something really intense happens, it's also gnarly, whether it be good or bad. If you're doing a cool show, it's gnarly. If it was horrible, that was gnarly too. It all depends on the context in which you use it. It's kind of like Greek."

There you have it folks: The Roger Martinez dictionary.

ONCE DEAD...NOW DOING AN INTERVIEW

By Doug Van Pelt

Here we have the growling vocalist for L.A.'s gnarliest thrash band: VENGEANCE. Their new album, "Once Dead", will be released in mid-February to an eager and ever-expanding audience.

With music that is so cutting and aggressive, it might be interesting to see what kind of music Roger Martinez listens to in his spare time. Let's ask him.

"What little music I do get to listen to," replies Roger, "I really enjoy progressive instrumental stuff, real ethereal-type stuff, because most of my time is spent studying. You can't really have music going and get some serious studying in. So, since I'm into books so much, I generally have something real mellow, like some real good progressive

instrumental jazz or some mood-type music.

"When I'm out with the boys or something, we'll crank on some Deliverance or Crucified, Sacred Warrior, those cats."

****What are some of your favorite teachers or authors?**

"Oh man, that list could go on and on forever. Some of the immediate cats that I really get blessed by regularly are, for instance, John McArthur, who is from Grace Community Church up here in Southern California. Also the whole staff down at C.R.I. (Christian Research Institute), the different authors who have worked with Dr. Walter Martin. Then other cats up here like

David Hocking and G. Michael Cicorus. There's so many really cool cats out here teacher-wise. Out of Atlanta there's good ole Charles Stanley. He's on the radio everyday. He's in the real practical vein. There's a tone of others. It's a never-ending thing. I'm constantly building up my library."

****Let's say the average reader has \$40 or \$50 to spend on study aids. What would you recommend?**

"That's one thing I'd definitely encourage--that they do seek to invest their funds in that. My whole library started with one book and I just bought another book and another. We spend our money on so many things. It's really a discipline and a





Doug Thieme in Austin, Texas (Photo by Kirk J. Crippens)

desire to, the more you get into the study.

"With that type of money, some of the immediate things...one book I would definitely encourage, for instance, is Louie Berkoff's Systematic Theology. It would be a real good one to get specifics going. Also a real good practical commentary series for your average cat would be the J. Vernon McGee commentary series, which you could probably get for just a little bit more than that.

"Also, there's the special interest books, like if they're into a special interest area of study. There's some really good authors who have condensed issues to real specific points. Let's say, for instance, understanding Biblical uses and understanding music from a Biblical position: I think that Dana Key just put out a real excellent book called Don't Stop The Music, which gives a real balanced perspective. It all depends upon the issues you wanna get into

in your study.

"Louie Berkoff's Systematic Theology would be one that hits all the basics, a book of milk. I know some people would probably consider it a book of meat, and that just shows where their personal study is at. It's a major book of milk."

**It's really cool that the Lord's kinda raised you up as a role model that studies and applies himself to the Word. I imagine a lot of people think it's uncool or they spend all of their time listening to music and they don't ever invest their time in really understanding the Word and what the Lord is trying to show 'em.

"That's really the whole reason the band exists. One of our main objectives is we really hope that those who are not currently initiating personal time of worship to God through the study of His Word would

do so. If it wasn't for that role, I wouldn't be doing this. That's the whole intent and purpose of the band."

**Lyrically, the first time around you covered a lot of the basics. On the new album are you getting into end-times prophecy?

"It's really more directional, like with the name 'Vengeance Rising' and the whole concept of the return of Christ. One tune, Among The Dead, literally to that fact says, 'Hey look, we as the body of Christ are here walking among the living dead. It is our responsibility and our opportunity to minister, that they might come into life in Christ.'

"The song Cut Into Pieces is a fore-warning, saying, 'Hey! The Bible gives explicit language in referencing the type of being severed from the presence of God.' It

really gets specific and it's heavy. Take a look at Satan. He had so much reason to choose good and to choose God, that his damnation is just. Same way for the person in the world. God has given so many reasons for them to choose Him. God has given so many reasons and opportunities for them to receive Him as their Lord and Savior that their refusal and failure to do so is their damnation, their condemnation. God's given them sufficient purposes and reasons to receive Him as their Lord and Savior through His Word and just the witness of the world. That's a heavy thing to think of.

"These songs on this album are more directional in the sense of we're speaking either directly to Christians or to non-believers. We also have tunes that we intend for the believer to sit down with his friend and say, 'Listen to this song.'

"The person goes, 'Oh, that's a radical song.'

"Then say, 'Let's look at these lyrics. Do you understand what they're saying? Do you understand what this means? We're really relying on the body of

Christ to do the one-on-one ministry in these towns on a daily and weekly and a monthly basis when we're not there. We're hoping that they will use it as the tool it's intended to be.

"Into The Abyss is one of my favorite tunes on the album. The Whipping Post is another. Larry and I wrote both of those. I just like the full-on song structures on those. They're really cool.

"Whipping Post is literally about that. It talks about a lot of different things dealing with the whole issue of what substitution is. One of the lines in it is: 'Pilate's wife knew the gig and she freaked out, man/ Barabbas understood substitution.'

"A lot of people say, 'What do you mean when you say 'substitutionary death?'' Well, the one person who very clearly understood that concept was Barabbas, because Jesus Christ was his substitution. He was on his way to death, but he understood that Jesus Christ took the penalty, while he went free. What a full-on killer illustration on the substitutionary death! Jesus Christ paid the penalty so that we, as the Barabbas-es,

could go free...even with the wretched stuff we've done. That's heavy.

"We've thrown in little concepts like that which we hope the body will really latch onto and use to minister to their friends and to teach them the basic concepts of the milk of what substitution is.

"The band itself is kind of centered on the dichotomy between the wrath of God and the love of God. Whereas we, by all means, are ministers of reconciliation, which is the reason we are called ambassadors of Christ. At the same time, we're called, as Noah was, to warn them of the judgement that's coming. So, there is the dichotomy of the two, where we're presenting the love of God and the wrath of God. We bring that out in the song Warfare...that the love of God is available, but at the same time there's the wrath of God; and that needs to be clearly understood. The world needs to be warned. That's what we as the body of Christ are here for. "The tune Arise is really speaking directionally to believers, saying, 'Hey man! If you're not discipling somebody and you





Roger and Larry in between visits to the chiropractor

haven't won anybody to the Lord and all of this and you've been saved three or four years, one or two years, whatever--you need to personally evaluate where your walk is at, because we've been left here for a purpose and the scripture has given us a clear perspective and understanding of that purpose. We need to understand that and realize that. It's a personal evaluation between you and God.

"Understand what the Bible's teaching and what it's called us to. There's songs like that too, which are calling the body to get off the bench and definitely do the work. I've talked to so many people around the country that say, 'Oh yeah, I've been a Christian five years.'

"And I say, 'Who are you discipling?'

"'Uh, what's that?'

"Or, 'Have you led anybody to the Lord?'

"'Well, no, not really.'

"It's like, 'Hey! If you've been a Christian five years, man, you should basically have near the equivalent of a Master's Degree,' ya



Pointing the way at Cornerstone (Photo by Dan Stawski)

know?

"Understanding that age has nothing to do with it. You take a look at Daniel. You take a look at Joseph. God does not look as man looks. Man looks at the outward appearance, but God's looking at the heart. If your heart is to serve God, go for it.

"There's a number of different issues on this album. Not so much prophecy per se, in reference to dealing specifically, like people such as Hal Lindsay or whoever. Perhaps sometime in the future we'll be able to get into that. That's not a specific point on this album.

"We do address the fact that the wrath is coming. We have a song called *The Wrath To Come*, which is speaking prophetically, by all means, of the time God says His judgement will fall. In that sense we have dealt with it, but not in reference to dealing with anything such as Europe uniting in 1990 and the whole deal and any of the modern geopolitical things that have happened that would be

perhaps considered in part a fulfillment of that.

"We dealt mostly with the biblical concept of the fact that Christ is returning and we could die any day, so that's not the point anyway. Many scholars hold to the fact that we're basically at the end of a 6,000 year period that's been allotted to man. That's one of the theories that I personally hold to. However, the Jewish calendar holds that right now we're under the year 5,750. They just had Rosh-Hoshana, the new year, and they consider that we're in the year 5,750 and their position is that Christ, Messiah, will come back within 250 years. So let's just imagine for the sake of argument, that they were right. Would that make any difference to us as believers? It better not, because if someone would say, 'Gee, 250 years...' That has nothing to do with it, whether He comes back in two weeks or two years or 200 years. It really shouldn't be the issue ultimately.

"It's a matter of personal salvation, because everyone will stand before God. That's what the bottom line boils down to. In my personal opinion, we are in a very serious and crucial time in the history of the world as we know it. All it would take is a *very few small events to bring on the whole thing that the Bible says will come. We see it through the exponential curve. That really blows me away...it could be 40 or 120 years,* but nevertheless we are in that crucial period of time the Bible calls the last days. It's a very significant study."

**How is the band doing?

We're definitely trying to get the ball rolling as far as a major tour. There's a lot of specifics we desire to see happen. We know that ultimately whatever God wants will occur. It's just us relying on Him and doing our part, being good stewards of what He's given us. We will definitely be out on tour, Lord willing, in about two months after the release of the album. That'll be definitely wailing. We're trying to hook up a major tour opening up for some cats."

**How have you guys dealt with what I'm sure you've gone through as far as personal conflicts?

"It's one of those things where each individual in life, period, will go through. You just have to deal with the situation at hand as it is. There's always gonna be character flaws in someone else. Married couples know that. Any husband and wife will tell you that, even though they love each other dearly. I'm in my fifth year of marriage and I love my wife more now than when we first got married. Every couple would probably say that. At the same time, we recognize that there are character things that we will just not get along with.

"There are things you attempt to work out and try to compromise, but people are people and they are who they are. So you're gonna find it in life. Basically, you need to work with each other as best as possible. There's just gonna be some things that just aren't gonna work out. That's the

way it is.

"The thing you need to do as a band member is not to expect another person to live up to what you want them to be. You need to recognize them for what they are and accept them for that. If there's anyway that you can help, in your perspective, and you come to a realization of perhaps something you think would benefit their life, then do what you can to help them; but not force your ideology upon them, because who they are and their whole background and what their 15, 20, 25 years of life has been totally different than yours. You can't expect them to be what you want them to be. They are who they are and you need to accept them for that.

"That's the thing I think is really important. You can receive people for who they are and not for who you want them to be. Your expectations for other people will never ultimately be worked out. They're gonna be who they are. A lot of times they'll do great things with you and a lot of times they'll fail you miserably. We need to recognize that. Once we have that perspective—that we aren't trying to change them to how we want them to be, but we can accept them for who they are—things will run a lot smoother."

**What are some of your touring and video plans?

"We plan on getting out to tour around the first part of April."

"We want to get all that stuff rollin'. What we'd prefer to do, what we're working on right now is doing a tour opening up for whoever it might be: Slayer; Nuclear Assault; whoever. Nothing's concrete right now, but these are ideas that we definitely want to get happening."

**Yeah! What are some of your goals for the next year?

"For the band to get some major world touring going. We have friends right now all over the world. We're getting mail from everywhere: Australia; Poland; Czechoslovakia; Hungary; Northern Ireland; England; Italy; France; Brazil; all those places. One of the major places we want to hit is Europe. There's a real need over there. Everyone's tellin' us there's a need where they're at, but we definitely want to full-on wail in Europe, which would be cool. All those types of things are some of the major goals. In the next year we'll be recording the third album, so that's something we're looking forward to as well."

**Have you talked to some thrash bands and seen some fruit?
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"That's something we're handling real delicately. With those type of people (secular thrash rock stars), keeping the contact and wanting to minister to them is important, so that they might come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Many of them are claiming that they are. Maybe they are, but I doubt it seriously. I think there are certain characteristics that come in a believer's life once someone is truly born again. Even in the prodigal state, they come to that place of repentance. That would be the signifying factor that they had been in that state. So, I'm just planting the seed and watering it and letting God do His work. Those who are truly saved will manifest that and those who are not; it'll be obvious."

**When you look at the thrash scene, what do you see? Do you see a big, bright future for thrash?

"You know, I myself have absolutely no idea. I just know that God's allowing us to minister in this vein and this genre for this period of time. What will happen with it, I have no idea. I really don't know. Me, I'll be sharing the Word of God whether or not thrash is here or gone. Not that I think it'll go away, it's just not the bottom line.

"The whole central purpose of the band is that people would get more rooted in the Word of God. What we've done is gone ahead. The ad that was in the HM Issue #21 was only a partial list of topics. We really encourage people to get into the Word through whatever means. One of the things that I really wanted to bring out on this album, but it didn't work out, is supporting Christian radio...as well as your personal church, which should be the main issue. Being a pastor, I listen to a lot of Christian radio and get blessed by a lot of other teachers.

"We're trying to make clear and concise teachings of the Word, so that people can have a clear perspective on things, like what it means to be anointed. There's so many bizarre teachings about that these days. We've just taken that issue and given the clear, biblical text that teach on it and show what they believe and how simple it really is. It's not some freaked-out gig, but it's really simple.

"We just want the body to be well-equipped for the ministry. That's what the 'Speaks Out On' tapes are for. We really encourage people who are into the music to sit down with the scriptures and understand clearly what these songs are saying, so that they can minister to others. The teaching tapes are a natural extension of that. 'Here's a bunch of other issues. Which ones do you have questions about? If you have questions about them, get in touch with us. That way we can go over it.'

"That's the one thing that would separate our band from just your average band. Our desire is to be available and to be there to actually help facilitate people really getting rooted in the Word. People



X-Sinner: Conquering Sin With Jesus Christ

By Doug Van Pelt



David Robbins

X-Sinner, whose name happens to be theologically correct, have unleashed an infectious brand of straight-ahead rock and roll that makes 4/4 time and power chords fun all over again. Thousands of rockers have been encouraged to "Get It" by the massive underground buzz surrounding their debut release.

Heaven's Metal caught up with the band one Sunday for the following interview.

****Why don't you share a short history of X-Sinner?**

"I am from Michigan," says 27 year-old guitarist Greg Bishop, "and so is the singer, Dave Robbins. We are not from Detroit, but from small towns from mid-Michigan.

"I basically started the band with a guy named Jim Ortega out here. That was about five years ago. We were looking for a killer singer. We didn't even wanna go with someone who was okay. We wanted to get someone who was good. I met Dave (26 years

old) through his sister in October of '87. We found Rob Kniep (23 years old), the bass player, in February of '88. Jim left before we went into the studio and we picked up Michael Buckner to fill the drumseat.

"Right from the very beginning, we were going to be really centered around Jesus."

****What caused you and Dave to move to L.A.?**

"Jobs in the aerospace engineering industry."

****Do some of the guys where you work give you a hard time for being long-haired rock and rollers?**

"No, they kind of like it, as a matter of fact."

Some of the guys in X-Sinner have an interesting situation to consider when planning a full-time touring schedule. A couple of the guys have \$40,000 a year jobs, which are a far cry from the usually small salary (if any) that most Christian rock musicians earn on the road.

"I have a wife," comments Greg, "so she's gotta be part of the decision-making process." This concern is not stopping all four guys from planting their faith in Christ and planning their touring schedule. "We all pretty much have our minds made up to go. It's not like we're not willing to let go of our jobs and that security to go on the road. We are willing to step out on faith and minister. We've gotta be the best stewards we can with our gifts."

At this point, the band doesn't know who they will be touring with and exactly when, but people who have seen them in the L.A. area can testify to the fact that their live shows are worth checking out.

****I know that some people theologically have a problem with your name.**

"Theologically it's sound," says Greg, who earned a Master's of Divinity degree. "We're gonna get it from both ends on that name. We tested both the name 'Sinner' and 'X-Sinner' in Nashville. They tried out both names in stores and half of the store owners wouldn't carry it if it was 'Sinner'. They said, 'If you call that band 'Sinner', we're not even gonna touch it.'"

The guys in X-Sinner know that we aren't above sin by our own strength, but that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to live over sin.

"For a scripture reference," says Greg, "check out 1 Corinthians 6:9-11:

'Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.'

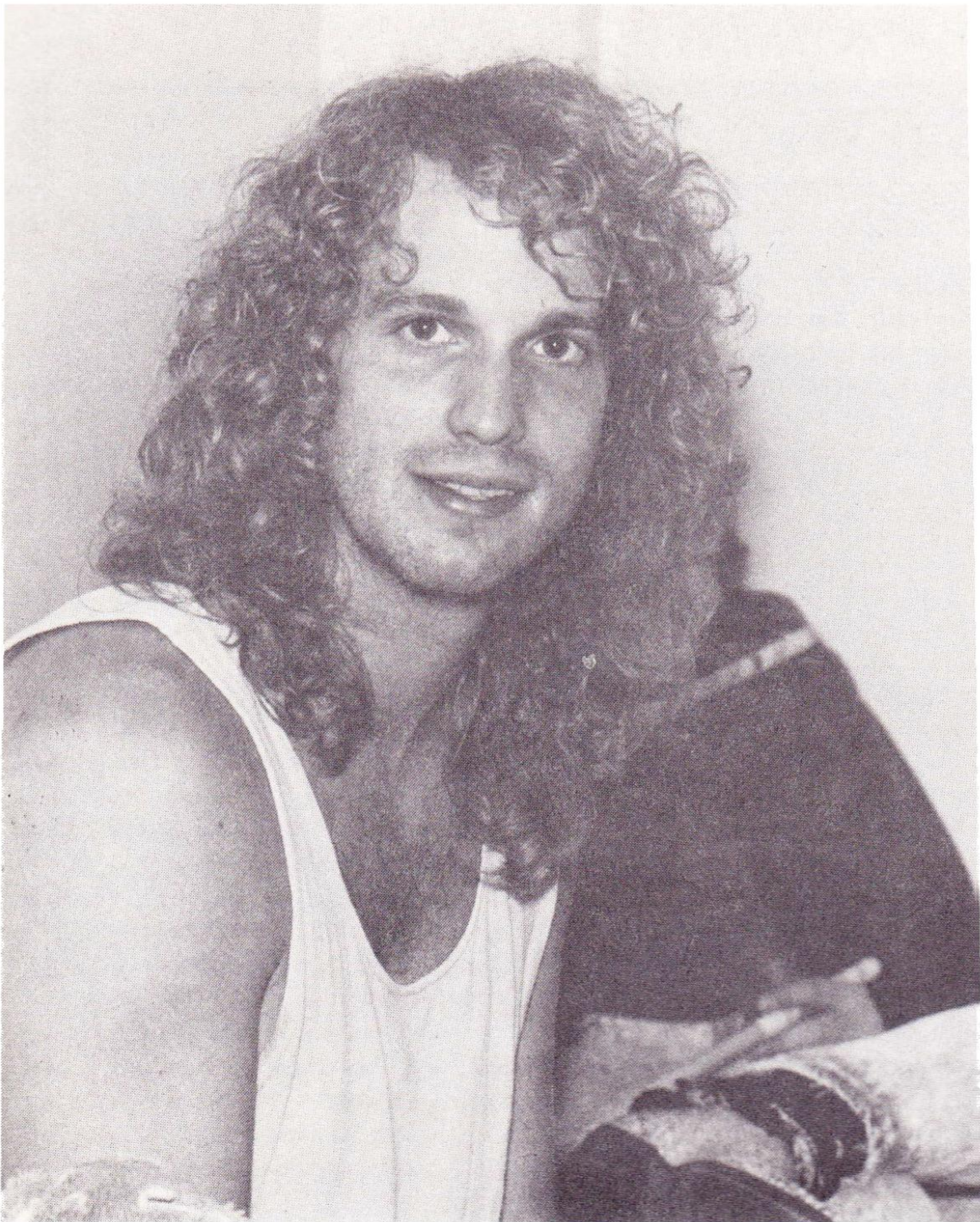
"I had a problem with the name 'Sinner'. Parents wouldn't let kids buy that album, thinking that we're gonna be a nasty band. We've discussed that in the band for a long time. The bottom line to the name is that it's theologically correct."

****1 John 3:4-10 talks about how we don't practice sin anymore:**

"Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He appeared in order to



Preparing for the gig (left to right): Michael Buckner; Greg Bishop; Rob Kniep; and David Robbins.



Greg

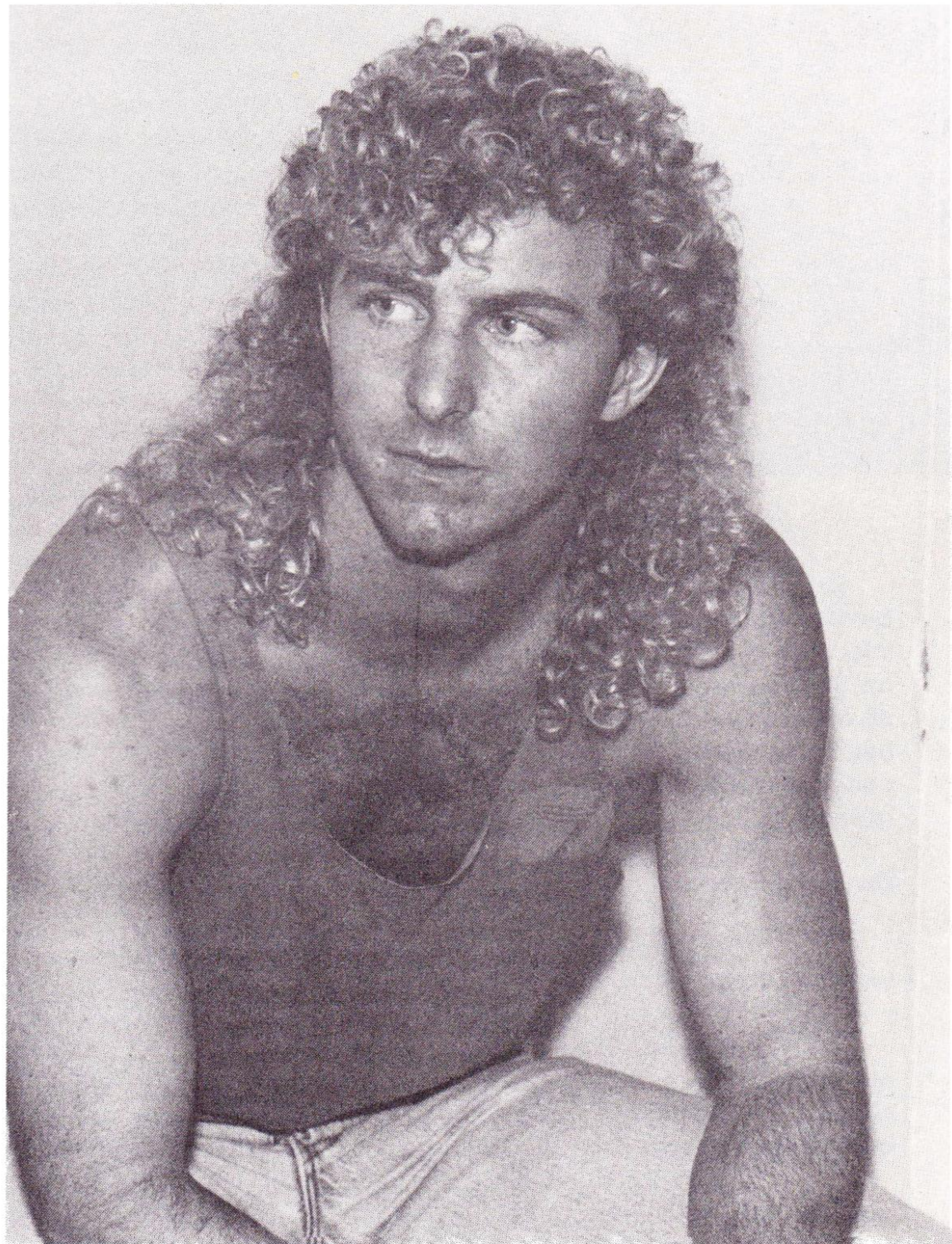
take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."

It's nice to see a band take a stand for righteousness. I think it's time for the bride of Christ to shed the defeated attitude of "Oh, I'm a sinner and that's all I'll ever be," when the Holy Spirit has begun His sanctifying work and Jesus has called us to a life of righteousness. If we take that defeated attitude, that's what we'll be: weak, defeated Christians. We will occasionally sin and fall down, but this will occur with less and less frequency as we get closer to Jesus and keep our old nature where it belongs: buried.

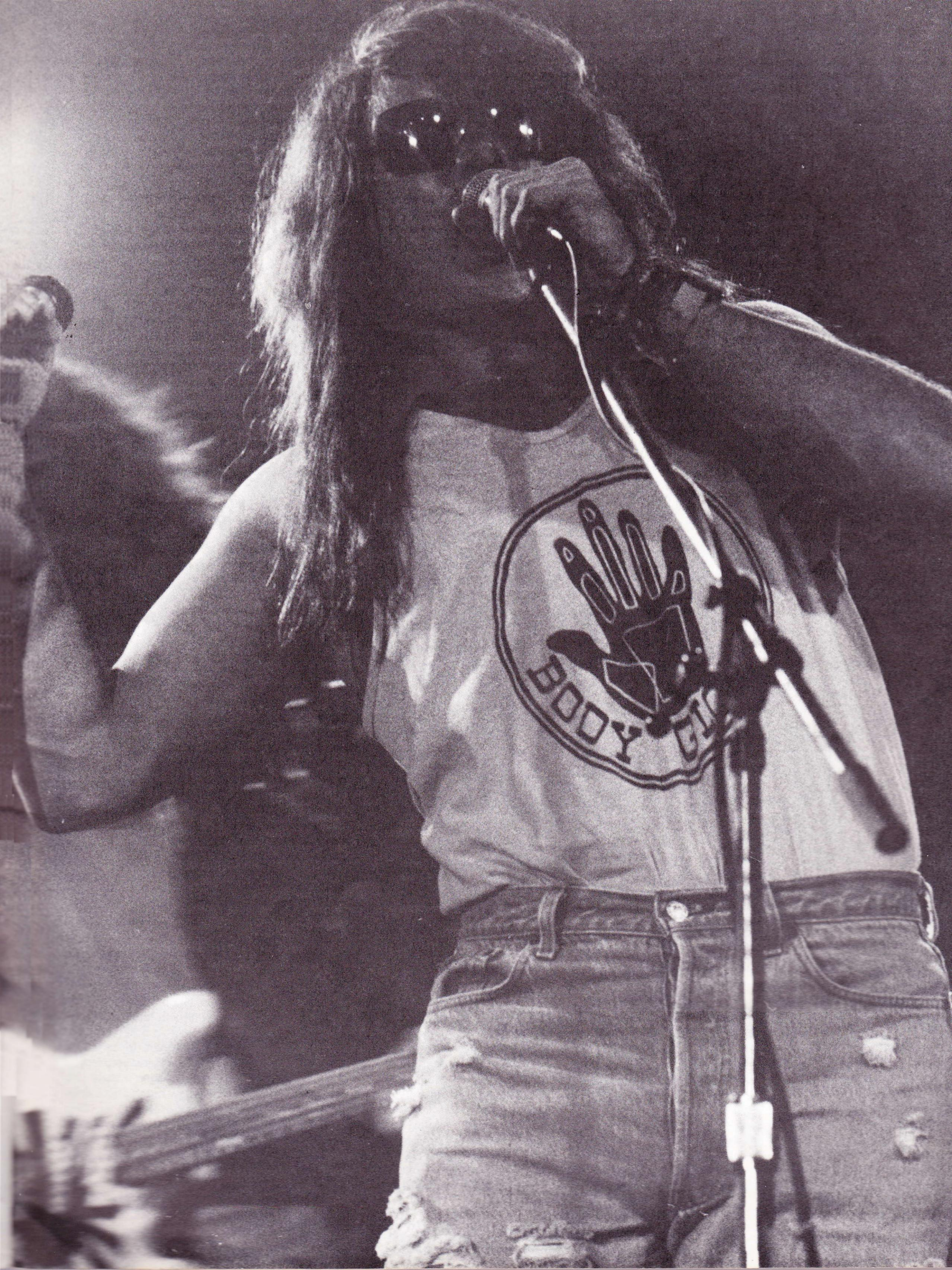
**David, I know a lot of people freak out over your voice and its similarity to Brian Johnson of AC/DC.

"Basically, Greg was looking for a singer," says David, "and my sister was telling him that I sing along to the radio a lot and that I was pretty decent at it. I didn't have any idea of their material, and I wasn't saved at the time either.

"He asked me to come down and try out for the band. I went down there and they had not had a singer for a year. He was trying to make me feel comfortable and he said, 'What do you wanna sing?'



Rob





X-Sinner backstage with producer John Eiefante

"I said, 'Well, groups like Aerosmith and AC/DC' and several groups like that which I felt I could copy real well. So, we ran through a couple of songs like that.

"That got gears turning for Greg to think more towards those type of songs. He's pretty versatile, as far as the kind of material he can come up with. He put two and two together and we came up with what it is now. Those songs went well, so he wrote in that direction and it's worked out real good."

"We're versatile too," adds Greg. "Like *Livin' On The Edge* and *Get It*, which aren't AC/DC style."

****Do you think your similarity to AC/DC is going to hurt your chances of success?**

"I think it doesn't matter," continues Greg, "because record buying people are fickle. One day you can be the greatest and the next day you're nothing. Let's take *Kingdom Come*, for example, when they put out that Zeppelin song. They went over really well, but the problem is that there was not another song on the album that was as good.

"Every musician is gonna say that his songs are good. I think our album is good. I think all the songs are good. We do have some versatility on that album. If people say we sound like AC/DC, then I'm only gonna admit to saying half of it is AC/DC sounding, because the other half sounds nothing like AC/DC. I think that may be a factor too. Our future material will be even more versatile and wide spread. Only half the album sounds like AC/

DC. It's not as if we're a full-on copy band. You could say that about *Dirty Looks*. Every one of their songs sounds like AC/DC."

****Did you try to get a sound like that?**

"I like 'em. It wasn't that calculated. Before we had gotten Dave, we were more of a heavy Dio-ish type style. I had already written a couple of songs that ended up on this album. It's what we like. The bottom line is we wrote what we like."

****Did you have fun in the studio?**

"Yeah. We have a lot more fun writing our songs than when we're in the studio. I think the first day in the studio is kinda neat, because you're all laying down your rough tracks. But when you go in one at a time like we did, it kinda loses it."

****How did you come to know the Lord, David?**

"Hanging around with Greg," replies David. "He had Bible studies goin' at his house and my sister had been led to the Lord by Greg a while back and she influenced me as well. I had a Catholic background. I was reading the Bible and discovered or grabbed onto the concepts that I'm not born a Christian."

****You were in the band when you**

started goin' to the Bible studies?

"I wasn't a bona-fide member of the band at that time. Greg said, 'You could basically sing for us and we're going to keep looking for a singer and you can help us out that way.' That sounded fine. That went quite awhile. They went through a bunch of singers.

"I was still green when I came in. I had no style, no knowledge of what to do, how to sing, how to give off energy and the whole feel. I picked up a lot of that stuff naturally by playing with 'em."

****Greg, what was your perspective? What kind of prayers were you saying for David?**

"You get very specific when people come into your life," answers Greg. "It was asking God to help me with a person who needed help.

"He said, 'If you ask anything in My Name, or for my sake, I'll do it.'

"I said, 'I want You to help me anyway You can.'

"A lot of credit went to his sister, probably more than me. It was just your typical situation with knowing someone mutual. He liked rock. He didn't know much about singing, so we worked an awful lot together. One thing led to another. It's your basic evangelistic situation the way God intended it--through the local church, your neighbors, and people you come into contact with."





X-Sinner's early days

****What are some of the gifts that you would use for service if you weren't with the band?**

"I can teach," says Greg. "I would share my knowledge of the Word. If I didn't have the band, I'd probably have time to give towards the music portion of the worship at my local church. Some of the people in the band are real friendly, so they'd be great to work as greeters, which is so important at a local church, at least in my study. My degree is in church growth. If you've got a good greeter at your church, by golly, you've got a good right arm. We'd work like that, effecting people's lives at the local church."

****What's a typical X-Sinner show like?**

"Basically, we show up and hang out," replies 30 year-old drummer Michael Buckner. "We sound check and just hang out. We don't dress up before we go on stage. We pretty much look like bums all the time. After we're done, we usually go right back and hang out again. It's just a major hang out thing. We get a lot of neat comments on that. They're really surprised that we're able to be talked to one on one."

"People see us being real," says Greg, "and they realize that being a Christian can be cool. They go away thinking, 'I could be like that.'"

****That's what discipleship is all about, seeing an example. I hadn't thought**

about it, but that's one thing that brought me back to Christ. I had a friend who cared about me and walked the walk before me. It was a radical lifestyle, as far as commitment goes, but it wasn't too ethereal that I didn't think I couldn't be, or wouldn't want to be, like that.

"Commitment is to love," says Greg. "To love is to obey."

****Do you have any video plans?**

"Not at this time. We're seeing how things go. We've played bar shows and clubs and one Christian gig. We have altar calls at Christian gigs."

****What's the L.A. club scene like?**

"I think we're a good band," admits Greg, "and the audience goes away thinking that we're a real good band. We let them know what we stand for. With those people, it's real easy to say the wrong thing and, in turn, do a disservice to God instead of a service. In other words, it's something that you could have done better."

"We don't really throw it down their throat. Rock and roll is this tough, macho thing. When you try and shove something down someone's throat, they will take offense to that. Even if it's the truth at times, I just think that it can be faithless and tasteless if done improperly. I think the way we go about it is pretty good and pretty effective."

"We need a lot of support help. Of course, there was never a time where God

wanted any substitution for the support of His church. His church is supposed to be the whole network for everything. We're an organization that's out of the church that helps the church."

****It's really a blessing to see a band like you guys with a good attitude about the church.**

"We are so pro-church. The church is God's plan for all time. We're His bride."

****Do you ever get nervous playing in L.A. clubs?**

"Well, I had heard from the industry that it's not a great draw out here for Christian concerts. As far as the L.A. club circuit, it's definitely over-rated. There's no doubt about that. The reason why is: you pay to play. Any band, no matter how bad they are, can play. All they have to do is come up with enough money and they can play. Once in a while you'll get a band that's actually getting paid and they really bring in a big crowd."

"I can see where people would think that. It's really no big deal. We're really more hyper than nervous before the gig. If you listen to our songs, you'll hear that they're not that difficult, so you can see how we can be a really tight band."

Tight indeed. This band has the style and the gusto to make things happen. They've even got a name that can start some great conversations. Let's be the church and use their music as a tool to fish for men.

THE TEMPORARILY INSANE **DELIVERANCE** INTERVIEW

By Doug Van Pelt



Here we find Deliverance leader and vocalist, Jimmy Brown, relaxing at home before the holidays.

****What kind of reports have you received from the album?**

"Nothing but good responses. I think the only negative stuff we're getting is that the vocals are too clear, too pretty, too melodic. A lot of people come up and say, 'I really like the feeling of the Greetings Of Death tape better than the album, although production and everything is a lot better on the album.'

"I like the demo a little better myself, because there's a lot of feeling there. A lot more there than on the album. Music-

wise on the demo, we just went in there and had a blast. Here we got real tensed up and everybody's freakin' out and screamin' and stuff.

"Otherwise, we've had nothing but good response. You've got your share of goofy kids that come up and say, 'I think you should scream like Roger Martinez.' I try to explain to them, 'I don't do that. I sing.'"

****Have you received letters from people that were affected by your lyrics?**

"Big time. For instance, one in particular I got from Kentucky. He was totally into drugs and stuff like that. He was given the album by somebody and he's just been changing his life, turning it around.

He's going to church and living for the Lord now. That was one of the more recent ones. There's a lot of touching letters. I'd say the songs that are really hittin' big are both the 'No' songs: No Love and No Time."

****What's your music gonna sound like in the future?**

"The next album is gonna be a trip. When we first got together, we were totally shooting for the Metallica cross Queensryche sound. Mostly my writing is gonna dominate the next album. I can't really write that Queensryche style. I like it and think that they're one of the most talented bands out there, but it's gonna be faster. This album is gonna be fast. I'm

gonna try singing a little rougher on this album, not trying to be so melodic, like No Love. I'm gonna try to shoot for kind of a raspy voice, like on Victory and The Call."

****Do you see any future for a song like Space Called You?**

"Nahh. We're gonna have mellow parts and stuff, like that Queensryche-ish type stuff where I'm gonna sing real low...but a full song like that? No. It's probably not gonna happen."

****When do you think you'll work on the second album?**

"Oh, we're going in (the studio) in February to record. We start working with the producer in January."

****Who's producing?**

"Alex Periles. He did the last three Testament albums, also Anthrax."

****Any touring plans?**

"Yeah. We just signed up with MasterRock Productions. We're gonna be doing a three and a half month nationwide tour starting in March. We're gonna come back and finish off in Cornerstone. We're gonna take a full case of the new cassette and cd to Cornerstone and throw 'em out in the crowd. It's gonna be called **Weapons Of Our Warfare**.

"Once we leave Cornerstone, it'll be officially released. We're gonna let it sell for three months and go out on the road again."

****What did you think of the "No Time Essay Contest"?**

"I thought it was fantastic. We got a lot of cool letters. A lot of 'em were kinda

goofy, ya know. I didn't see a lot of pertinence in 'em...nothing that really pertains to the song or how it really effected them. The winner made the experience of listening to the album a whole story. He knew how to word everything. It was really good."

****How's the married life?**

"I'm enjoying it. It wasn't as bad as they said it was gonna be (laughter). People made it sound like it was gonna be the most hideous thing in the world. I'm totally in love with it, man. I couldn't see living any other way."

****Tell me about the personnel changes.**

"Glenn leaving the band was a mutual decision. Then we started looking for another guitar player. Glenn was playing gigs with us until we found George.

"We looked at a bunch of guitarists, and none of them worked out. So, I called Roger Martinez and told him, 'Do you have anybody in mind?'

"He goes, 'Well, I really know one guitarist that's really good, but he's in another band.'

"I went, 'Who?'

"He said, 'I can't tell ya.'

"I said, 'Dude, just tell me. I won't tell anybody.' We argued and argued and argued for, like, 20 minutes on the telephone. Finally, he goes, 'Just don't tell anybody,' and spends about 10 minutes telling me not to tell anybody.

"He goes, 'George Zebra.'

"I go, 'George Zebra? Who the heck is George Zebra?'

"He's the guitarist for Recon. He used to be the guitarist in the band I was in, called Prophet.'

"Oh! George Ochoa! Yeah, yeah! He wants to join Deliverance? But

he's in a glam band.'

"He goes, 'Oh, Recon ain't glam. They're just kinda wimpy.'

"I go, 'Why does he want to join Deliverance?'

"He goes, 'Dude, he's just been freaking out. He's been deciding who he's gonna go to: Deliverance or Recon.'

"So, finally I got all jazzed. I totally dug his playing. I used to go see him in DeRoque. I fully dug his guitar playing. It was funny. It was a Thursday night that Roger told me and that Saturday Recon was playing. So, I drove all the way out to Burbank and I walked up to him after the concert. He goes, 'Dude! How's it goin'?'

"I showed him our album and go, 'I've got our album in the car. Do you wanna go listen to it?'

"He goes, 'Yeah, sure.' We went to the car, popped in the tape, listened to a couple of tunes, and he goes, 'Play The Call.' That's his favorite song. He totally loves it. I played it and he was totally getting into it.

"I said, 'Basically, I'll just get straight to the point. I came here to tell you to quit Recon and come join Deliverance. He goes, 'Dude, are you serious?'

"I said, 'The door's open. We've prayed about it. The whole band's talked about it. Come audition for us.'

"He goes, 'I don't know.'

"I go, 'Dude, come on. Do you think this band's gonna go anywhere?' I was being a total jerk.

"He goes, 'Let me think about it.' Two days later he was down at our house auditioning."

****Is he still playing with Recon?**

"No. He's gonna do the album and produce it. I'm gonna produce the vocals. It's gonna be a lot of fun. He's doing the Recon project, this album. After that they're gonna find another guitarist. He wants to be a producer, so he's excited about producing it."

****The last time we talked was when I did that moshing article for CCM.**

"Gosh, that was so controversial. Oh man, I got so many remarks on that thing. So many praises, but so many rebukes. 'Oh, you were wrong saying that it's bad!', which came mostly from all the punker-type Christians."

****How have you dealt with moshing at your gigs since then?**

"To be frank and honest: If we're playing with a secular crowd, it's kinda like we really have no control. We have security guards that handle everything. Say we play a club and we really can't control it. For one thing, it's not our show or anything. What we do is we have our security guards stand out there and they totally control the whole situation.

"If it's our show, and we run the show basically, like the promoter calls us up and asks us to headline and says, 'It's basi-



cally your show. Who do you want to open for you?' That's mostly the kind of shows we do. In those cases, we don't allow it. It's one thing when you've got a bunch of secular kids there and you're opening up for Slayer. You let 'em do what they want to do. You minister to 'em through the lyrics, but also through the words between songs. They won't be doing it when there's no music going on.

"I've never been to Cornerstone. I hear there's kids that can't breathe, cracked ribs, full-on cracked open heads, bleeding, bloody noses, all doing this in the name of God. I can't see that. How can you say you're of God and you're into violence, you know? I've heard the stupid phrases during prayers like, 'God, make this a pit of joy, a pit of love and peace. Lord, I just lift the pit up to you tonight.' How could you do all those things and say it's in the name of God? It's hard to understand.

"It again gets back to, 'Where did this originate from? Why has it gone on? Why did it originate?' It was originated in rebellion. It's an 'iffy' issue, you know.

"Headbanging? I don't have a problem. Like I said before, 'Headbanging's not of God, but I don't think it's against God either.' The more and more I see it and the more and more I see people getting hurt, the less I think of it. The more and more I hate it."

**How do you keep it from happening at your shows?

"We usually have our manager or whoever come out and say, 'Remember: No moshing tonight.' Then there's the, 'Oh man!' reaction and all that stuff, but they stay. If it does start, we have some pretty big dudes in our team and they just go out there and stop it."

**You don't say anything when you're playing and it starts?

"No. The crew just goes out there and stops it. We played this one show in San Diego where the kids ran up on stage and started moshing on the stage and all over the place and stage diving. We just had to stop. It just got too way out of hand, bumpin' into us, tryin' to grab my guitar. It was just too crazy. It's a weird situation.

"If the world does it, they don't know any better. The Christians, come on. We've been called out of darkness and we've been called into the light. We're children of the light.

"I've been looking forward to go to Cornerstone. Some kid in Oklahoma City was telling me about it and I didn't even want to go anymore. I can't believe all this is goin' on."

**Believer is on the bill this year. It might be you and them on the same stage. There might be one band that allows moshing and then you guys. It'll be interesting.

"We don't full-on scream from the stage or anything. Like I said, we have our



George Ochoa in full riff

boys go out there and take care of it. It's a sticky situation. It gets scary."

**I saw a dude at Cornerstone this past year. He was like, really hurt. I seriously thought he was dead or gonna die. Apparently he just got a concussion. A bunch of people were praying over him...

"You see, what's the need of that? 'Bless this pit! May it be a pit of peace and joy.' If they only heard what they were saying! David said, 'You lifted me out of the pit.'"

**If someone was reading this magazine and wants to get saved, what would you say?

"Jesus Christ is the best thing that can ever happen to you in your entire life. I would really encourage 'em to make a prayer today, because there's not much time left.

"I'm not gonna preach easy Christianity to you. If somebody would say to you, 'It's easy. It's nothing. It's just saying, 'Lord, come into my life...' It's more than that. It's making a full commitment of your life to Him.

"Lord, whatever you would have for me, for me to do for You, that is what I will do. I will serve You.' You will become a bondservant, as scripture says. You will not be bummed because you have to do specific promises and laws. It's because the bond of love...for what He's done for you; saved you from such a horrible place called hell.

"All I can say is, 'I will not preach easy Christianity.' I will not tell you it's a life of no difficulties and everything will be rosey and cheerie and you'll make a million dollars, that if you play guitar you'll be in a Christian band and it'll be okay. I will not tell you any of that. I will tell you that you're in store for 100,000 attacks from the enemy and

be sure that he will want to take your life and anything close to you, such as your family and friends...or the slightest little thing to take you away from Christ. If you just stand steadfast in the faith and hold on to your faith in God and hold onto His hand and let Him lead you through it, He'll hold you and lift you until He finishes the good work He's started in you.

"If you wanna accept Jesus Christ into your heart, He'll totally forgive you. Give everything to Him. If you wanted to say a prayer, you might say, 'Father in heaven, I come to you in Jesus' name. I ask You to forgive me, wipe my sins away with Your precious shed blood. Cleanse me from all unrighteousness and make me into a new creature. Lord, fill me with Your Spirit and make me holy in Your sight. Lord, I love You.'"

⊕ DELIVERANCE GREETING OF DEATH





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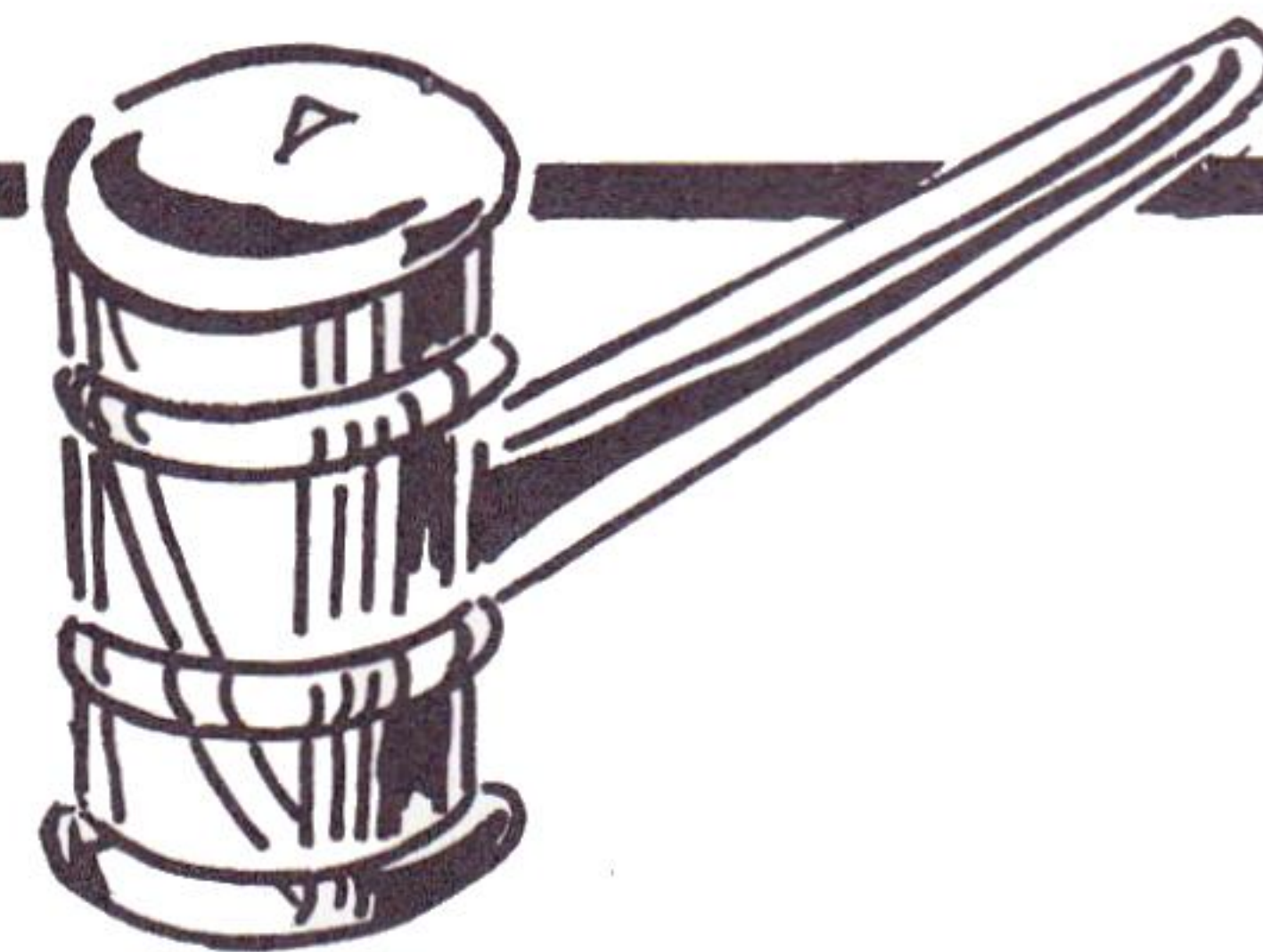
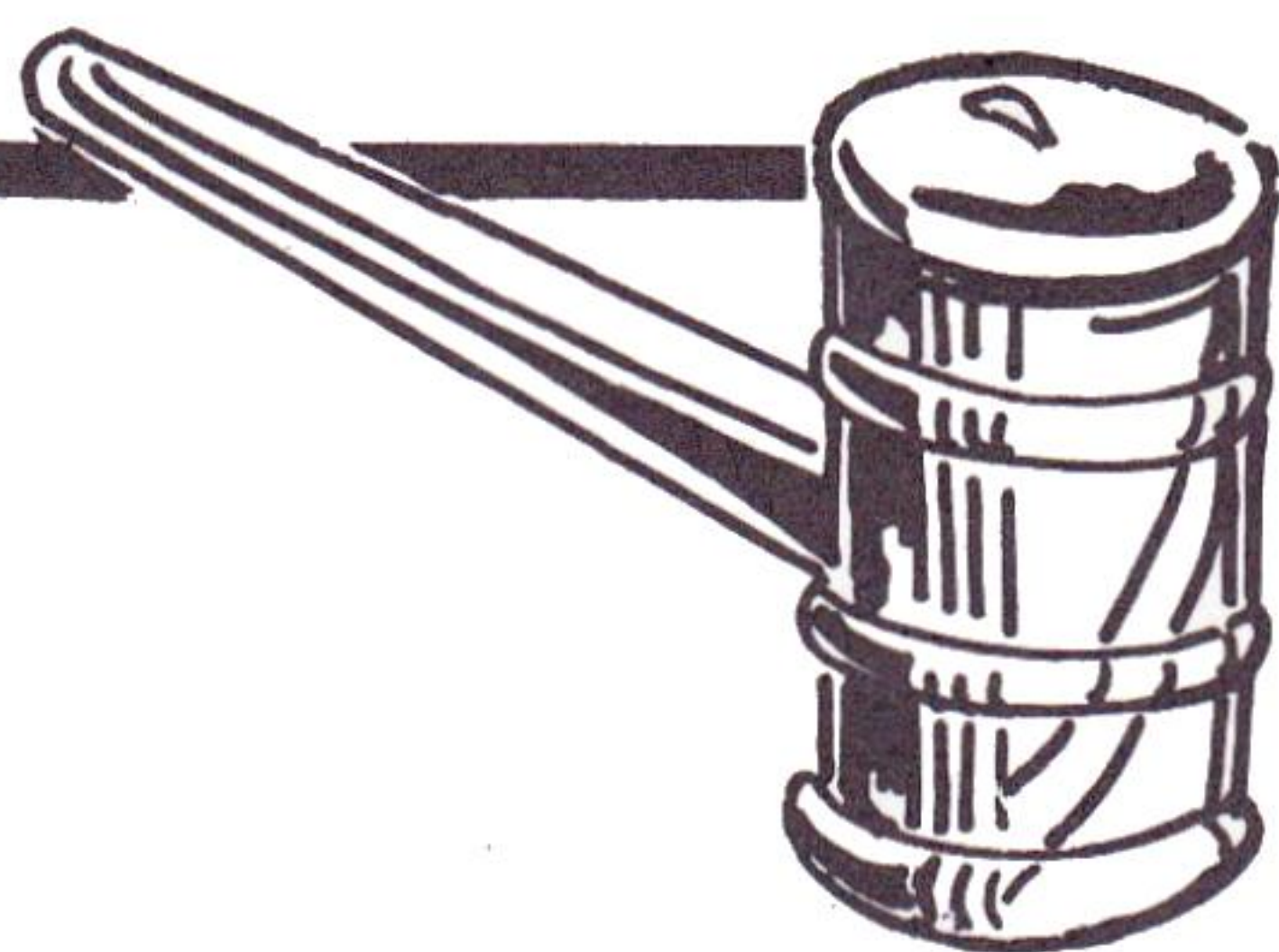
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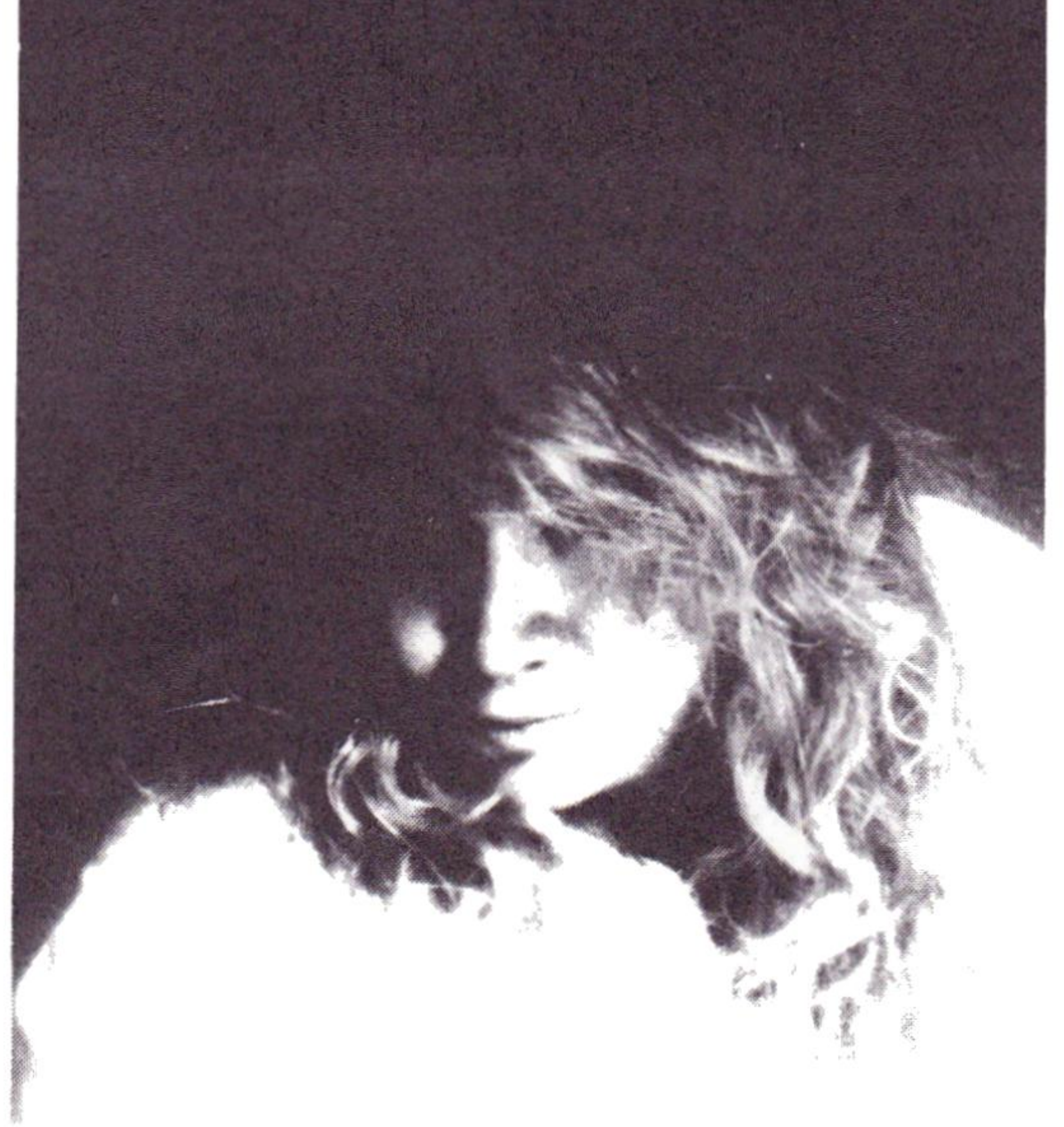
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THAT STRANGE ARCHON CONSPIRACY

By Doug Van Pelt



ARCHON (left to right): Mike Jacobs; Billy Williams; Randy Ray; and Andy Denton.

Archon is an explosive band that is going to blow a lot of minds soon with their high-polished, powerful melodic metal. Anyone impressed by Ruscha's live set last year will recognize the musicians here. It's Andy Denton, that Joey Tempest (Europe) look and sound-alike, on vocals; Mike Jacobs on lead guitar; and Billy Williams on drums. They were writing most of the latter material for the band before leaving.

Andy, Mike, and Billy left Ruscha late last Spring to form their "dream band". "It was kind of tough," says Mike, "but it was something we felt we needed to do."

Andy and Billy knew their bassist, Randy Ray, for ten years prior to asking him in the band. Andy, Billy, and Randy all grew up in the Texas panhandle, where they worked together or competed with each other in several bands.

"We're playing the music we like," says the band, who are going headfirst after the commercial metal sounds of Bon Jovi, Europe, Def Leppard, and Winger.

"It's rock with a conscious," says Andy. "Our songs deal with real-life issues: premarital sex; drugs; suicide; loneliness; peer pressure...all the things kids go through today. We don't just address the problems; we offer an answer."

Andy, who lists his influences as Steve Perry, Bob Carlisle, Greg X. Volz, and John Waite, grew up in a broken home in Amarillo, Texas. He tried drugs and alcohol before filling the void in his life with Jesus Christ in 1981. He was saved at a Christian rock concert.

He's been honing his voice for 12 years now, first as a singing drummer for a local Christian band called Lazarus.

Mike Jacobs is the metalhead guitarist that used to shock conservative concertgoers who probably went to see Ruscha because of their ballad, **Burning Bridges**, and ran out of the building covering their ears. He has long black hair and a flair for metal guitar sounds. He credits NightRanger guitarists Jeff Watson and Brad Gillis as his main influences.

The other Ruscha transplant, Billy Williams, has been playing drums for 13 years. Billy was saved in 1981, but not before going through some tough times, including the death of his father when he was nine years old. Billy was also a member of the Amarillo band Lazarus before joining Ruscha in 1986.

This four-man unit is sure to make an impact on the music scene with their polished and powerful melodic metal. They have the talent and experience to pull off an incredible sound live as well as in the studio.

"When people leave one of our shows," says Randy, "they leave with something they can sink their teeth into...Not just musically, but spiritually."

"We don't want to sell Jesus Christ," says Billy. "He doesn't need to be sold. We're Christians...and that fact comes out in our music."

"Sin has got you bound/ Compassion can't be found/ Where's the love you've heard/ It's just a cheapened word/ So where are you to go/ After the fall?/ He'll calm the storms/ After the fall...God's so faithful/ but His children won't forgive/ As you reach for His redemption/ They can't forget the fall/ They can't forgive the fall"—**After The Fall**

"Count on me/ Cause I'm a prayer away...Call on me/ And I'll be there for you/ Cause I care for you."—**Call On Me**

"We're not judge and jury," says Mike. "We're witnesses...and witnesses tell the truth."

* * *

Archon is in the midst of change. Dave Hunt, the popular author who wrote

The Seduction Of Christianity and Beyond Seduction, has recently authored a novel called The Archon Conspiracy. This novel apparently follows the vein of Frank Peretti's This Present Darkness by revealing the wicked and destructive schemes of the "new age" movement.

Probably because they don't want the unnecessary affiliation with the new age, this band is changing their name.

What's it gonna be? Well, that's where you come in. Archon is taking suggestions for a new name. The person who sends them the name they choose will essentially "win the band" for a free concert in their town, plus some free T-shirts and stuff.

"In other words," says Billy, "we're giving the band away for a good name."

So, if you want to have this hot band to play a free concert in your town, start searching your mind for that ultimate name and send it in with your name, address, and phone number to: Kaleo Creations, 715 Apple Court, Nashville TN 37211.

More Of...



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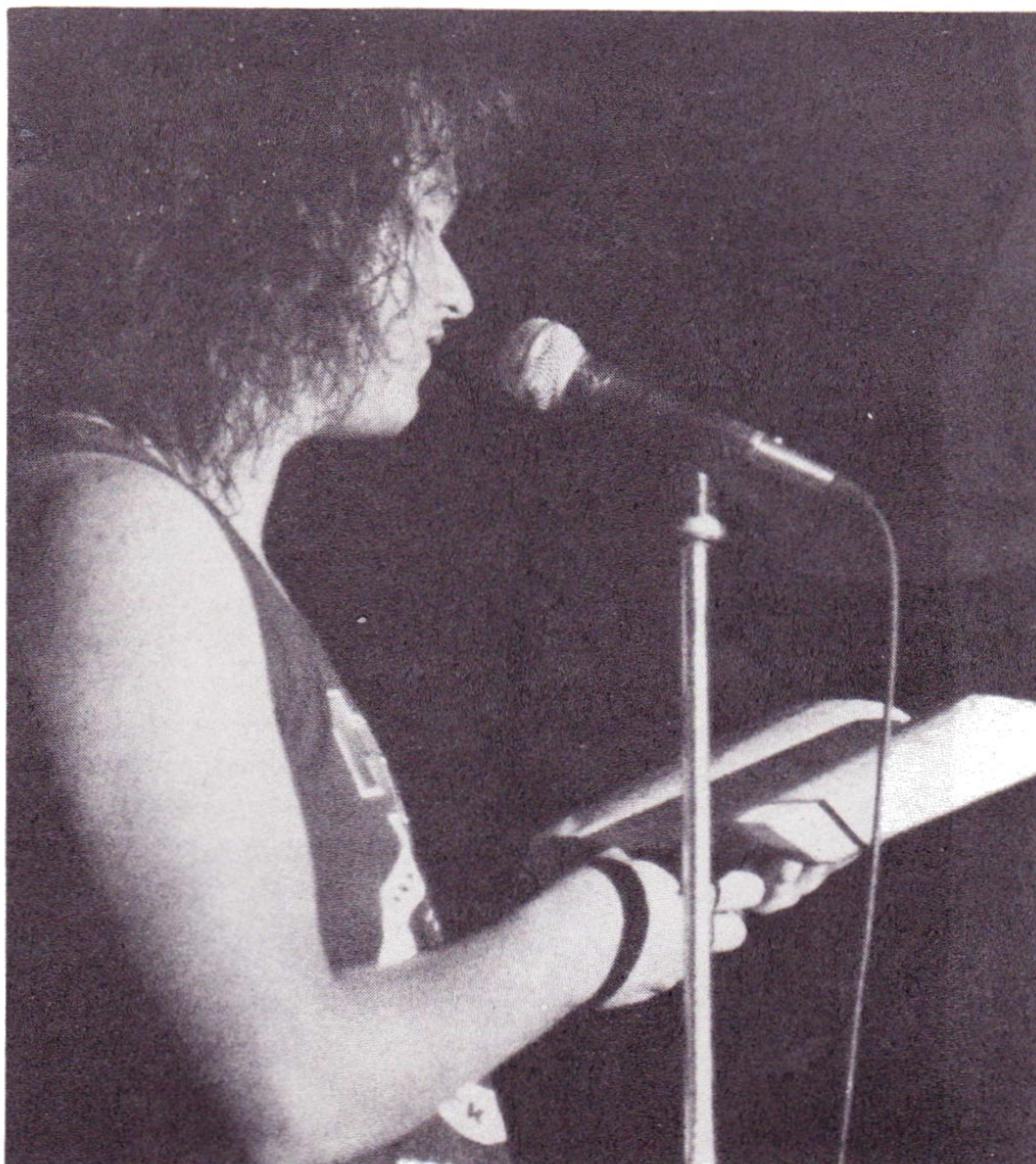
* **White Rock** is a Swedish Christian metal zine. \$2 per issue. Write: c/o Roland Engstrom, Faltspatvagen 46, 2 steps, S-803 34 Gavle, Sweden. Bands: send demos, etc.

* **Vortexx Vinyl** is a monthly buy/sell/trade paper that's risen from its glorious ashes. Glad to have ya back, John! For a copy and an avenue to get ahold of great rare and used records, cd's, k's, etc, write: Vortexx, PO Box 621564, Orlando FL 32862.

HM

TEMPEST RAGES ON

By Walter Hertenberger



J.R. Rowe preachin' the Word at Cornerstone (Photo (c) '89 Roger Riveland)

Heaven's Metal finally caught up with the rock/pop band Tempest (out of Indiana) to see what was new on their agenda and to get some spiritual insights on the group. We had a chance to speak with lead vocalist, and spokes person for the band, J.R. Rowe.

Having already produced two albums, which were both (sadly enough) eaten alive by critics, Tempest is presently writing songs for a new project. The new album will hopefully arrive in the Spring of 1990. So, be watching for a new release from this band. The new album is expected to have some different hooks and attention-grabbing twists. "We're spending more time on structuring our songs than before," says J.R.

The band is trying to develop a more grooving sound with fun rockers, containing riffs a la Poison, Aerosmith, and Kiss. There are hopes of achieving a more mature sound for the band, and it looks as if they're getting it. Tempest just finished playing a few gigs in the Oklahoma area with the well-known thrash band, Deliverance. It turns out that lead singer Jimmy Brown was impressed by Tempest's performance and even a couple of their songs. However, the battle rages on.

The band is working hard, against

the odds even, as they are recording their third album without a steady lineup. At the present, they are recording with their touring drummer and new bassist--Billy West. West was recently acquired from a band in North Carolina called "Pastor".

This should prove to be, if anything, at least an interesting change of direction for the band. "I feel that it is becoming important to incorporate specific attitudes into our songs, to set a certain mood or groove."

Having been raised as a Christian, J.R. has, for a long time, felt a calling to go into the music ministry. He feels that God will be using himself and the other band members, each, as independent instruments for spreading the Word of God in the future.

Tempest is a commercial rock band, but nevertheless an applaudable one. If you're not a big commercial/glamour rock fan, but are still interested in supporting Tempest's ministry, prayer is encouraged. They've asked for our readers to pray for the band in financial matters, for them to have wisdom in making business decisions, and that they don't lose sight of their goals and reasons for entering into this ministry. Pray for these guys!



METAL TRACKS

Whitecross went on a missionary tour to Guatemala in December. The Guatemalan government paid for their plane flight, where they were treated with indifference due to their long-haired appearance...until the flight attendants passed out newspapers from Guatemala City, which featured a big article on Whitecross and this tour. All of a sudden the atmosphere changed, where they received handshakes and pats on the back. When they arrived at the airport, there were tons of kids waiting and cheering and waving banners for them. They were treated like pop stars the whole time. "Attention Please" was #10 on the mainstream pop charts at the time.

Their gig in Guatemala City was attended by the country's First Lady and several rabid fans who rushed the stage when the band opened with "Attention Please". According to band manager, Gavin Morkel, "The kids were jumping up on stage trying to give Michael (Elliot) the high five...it was crazy." 280 people got saved! I tell ya-- South and Central America is a fertile harvest field for heavy metal ministers of the Gospel. Keep prayin' for a full-blown tour by one of the kingdom's bands. Those countries love metal. Whitecross tithed 10 days of their time for this tour, which included visiting some Compassion International sites.

Eternal RYTE's debut album on Pure Metal is finished. Caesar Kalinowski produced it. He says he pleased, so I'm guessing it's gonna be hot. Speaking of Caesar, he's put together a really hot catalog

Rikk Hart is no longer with Guardian

of metal releases, including: rare custom stuff; T-shirts; buttons; instructional tapes; Sanctuary teaching tapes; some magazine called Heaven's Metal; and bumper stickers. It's called Big Rage. If you'd like a free copy, write: Big Rage! Productions, PO Box 9318, Waukegan IL 60079.

Xalt has finished their debut album, which should be hitting the racks any day now.

Crucified and Torn Flesh debut albums have hit. Pretty lethal stuff...Both of them and Xalt are featured on "Heavy Righteous Metal Volume 2"; the Crucified tune is Hellcorn; from Torn Flesh is Torn Flesh; Xalt performs Piercing The Darkness. The other bands featured are Legacy, who fared well at Cornerstone '89's New Talent Contest, with Cross The Line; Lust Control, with Madolyn Murry O'Hair and the unannounced inclusion of the 20-second tune Wretched; Whitecross, with Attention Please; Bride does Until The End We Rock; Rosanna's Raiders, with I Am Ready; One Bad Pig does their Looney Tune; and Tempest appears with Rock For The Light.

Rikk Hart has left the drumset for Guardian. Guardian recently shared a few Japanese stages with Holy Soldier and Dave Mullen. They were all featured on Japan's version of MTV--"Space Shower TV", plus various radio interviews. Proceeds of the gigs went all the way back to the homeless in Los Angeles.

Guardian was also on the bill at Knott's Berry Farm's New Year's Eve Cere-
Heaven's Metal #23 Page 26

mony, where they stopped their set shortly before midnight to bring the audience into the new year. Once it came and everybody shouted, the band went into "Good Life" with the backdrop of tons of fireworks in the sky.

One Bad Pig was the other metal-type band on the bill there, which was only their second ever California gig. The first one was the night before in Fallbrook, California, where Deliverance shared the stage.

Tom Worman, who produced Poison and Faster Pussycat, will be producing the next Stryper record, which we should see in May or June.

In "not-really-metal" news: The 77's have a collector's box set of rare releases available through Spring Arbor Distributors. To get ahold of this rarity, called "Seven is 7", go to your local Christian bookstore and say, "I'd like to special-order this from Spring Arbor." Those are the magic words that should get you any product available through Spring Arbor in a matter of a few days.

Also currently available through S.A. are: "Sick Of The Darkness" by Sentry; Nine Red Roses, an alternative band that's currently one of Dave Johnson's (of White Throne) favorites; "Wakin' Up The Dead" by L.S.U.; and Straightway's debut cassette or cd.

Roxway has recently added a new guitarist.

Electrik, which Melvin of Seventh



Pig Screamer Carey "Kosher" Womack at Cornerstone '89 (Photo (c) Rae Lynn Sims)

Seal says puts on a great, very visual show, has been playing out. They are planning some out-of-state gigs. Watch out! These pop-metallers are doing very well in the 1989 Heaven's Metal Reader's Poll "Favorite custom tape" category.

San Antonio will be hosting a miniature Christian metal festival of sorts, called "Exodus '90", on February 11th. The bill is: Change; Millineum; One Bad Pig; Vengeance; Paradox; and Sacred Warrior. All proceeds are going to New Beginnings, a "Whole-way House" that ministers to kids who've been ritually abused or involved with the occult and want to get out. For info, call Joe Delucie at (512) 737-3892.

Charizma recently played a few gigs in the Soviet Union. Apparently their hometown in Sweden signed a friendship pact with a city in Estonia, which prompted the small tour. The band recently went into the studio and recorded a vinyl EP to commemorate the event (See review this issue).

Armageddon has just released their long-awaited debut, "Money Mask". They are currently on the lookout for a bassist and a drummer. If you qualify, send the usual tape, bio and photo to: Armageddon, PO Box 8507, Alexandria VA 22110.

Whiteray has a new drummer.

Spurs Concert Center in Oklahoma City is one of the coolest places with one of the neatest staffs I've ever been around. It looks like they've lost it to Anheuser-Busch, who wants to pay four times as much as the Christians did for the facility and turn it into a billiard hall. Quite a

loss for Christian metal in OK City. Right now they're looking for another spot. If led, an encouraging letter or postcard would be appreciated. Write: K.O. & Joni White, c/o Spurs, 1508 SE 25, OK City OK 73129.

Legionnaire has moved into Trytan's rehearsal studio, which they both now share. Legionnaire is currently working on some new tunes to be recorded.

Paradox has written a couple of new songs, which they performed well at a recent Austin concert with Vengeance and Awake. One that really stands out as a killer tune is "Give A Listen", which features some great hooks and BGV's and ends with a classy vocal ending with Scorpion-like quality. It'll be featured on the "Big Rage" compilation cd when it comes out.

Roxalt is working on a new project called "American Voodoo". Keith and Mike Wells are the authors of the guitar instructional book called FasTab. Those interested may write: Roxalt, 2810 Thousand Oaks, Suite 130, San Antonio TX 78232.

Kansas City has some exciting cooperation going on in the Christian metal community there. Several bands have come together and formed a group called "CRUSADE", which meets twice monthly for Bible study, worship, fellowship, and organizing concerts. For more info, call Doug Ramsburg at (913) 677-0227.

Heirborne, one of the Kansas City bands, is working on recording a demo soon. For info, write: 213 S. Jeffreys, Pleasant Hill MO 64080.

Petra and Kim Boyce played at a Heaven's Metal #23 Page 27

concert celebration for San Francisco Giants pitcher Dave Dravecky, who recently overcame tremendous odds of ever pitching again after removing a tumor and most of his pitching arm's muscle in his biceps removed. Dave shared his testimony and the bands played. Over 15,000 tickets were sold! And over 100 young people got saved!!!

The Novella project for Pure Metal has been postponed. That's bound to be a killer record!

King's Crew is a band mixing metal and rap. They are negotiating with Pure Metal. One idea that's been tossed around is having Rex Carroll play on it.

Sacrament is a thrash band from Philadelphia newly signed to R.E.X. Records, who are making a concerted effort to build a cool hardcore/thrash roster. Prez Doug Mann describes Sacrament's sound as a bit slower than Believer, kind of like Testament.

Believer recently did a benefit show with EZO on the bill. Both Believer and The Lead are confirmed acts for Cornerstone '90.

The rest of the confirmed hard rock/metal acts at this point are: Barren Cross; Whitecross (on the main stage!); X-Sinner; Deliverance; One Bad Pig; Darrell Mansfield; Rez; Crucified; and Scattered Few. The hosts for this year's New Talent stage are: R.E.X. for metal; and Myrrh for alternative. Some of the other acts confirmed at this time are: Larry Howard; Mark Heard and band; Geoff Moore; Charlie

Peacock; Margaret Becker; and, get this—An evening encore with Da, The Swirling Eddies, and Randy Stonehill...Wow! Be there if at all possible. For information on the fest, write Cornerstone at: 4707 N. Malden, Chicago IL 60640.

The Lead has a new guitarist by the name of Andy Coyle.

Recon is signed to Intense/Frontline.

Deliverance recently played at show at L.A.'s Water's Club on a Saturday night. They played after a satanic band and they openly talked about the Lord to a silent, listening crowd. This is the place for their ministry, if you ask me: it's located in a bad neighborhood; and serious moshing is going on in a crowd that needs to hear Deliverance's message.

Ulf Christianson of Jerusalem has been travelling to Russia with his acoustic guitar and a Bible. Refuge prez Ray Nenow accompanied him on a trip recently and said there were lots of people getting saved and healed.

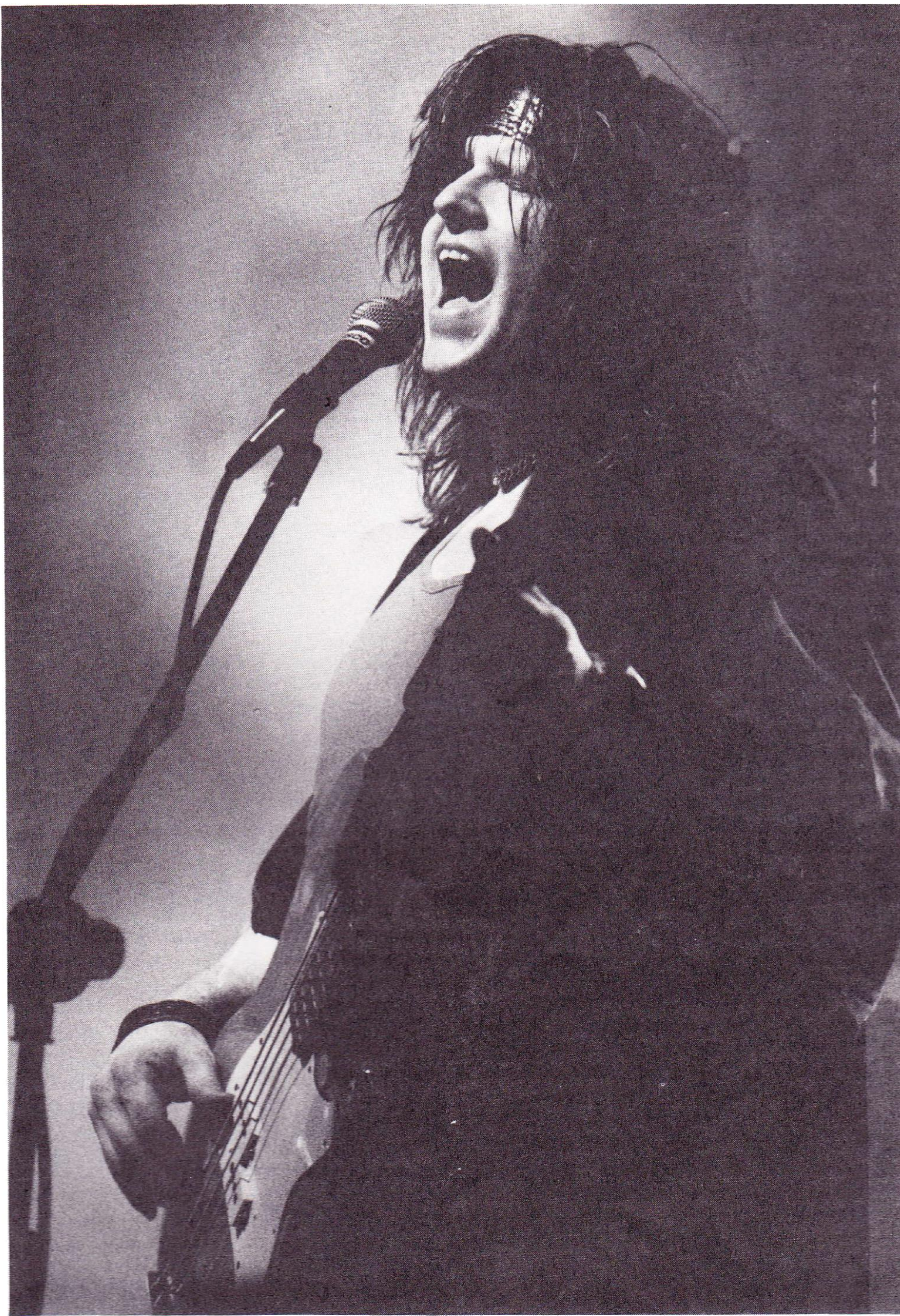
For those bands who'd like to get some secular press, a new zine is starting, called Demolish, that is giving coverage to all types of metal, including Christian. Send your basic press kit of photos, bio, previous press, and a tape or record. Also, if you'd like to do some writing for this zine, editor Curt King is accepting record reviews, articles, concert reviews, and even artwork. To contact, write: Demolish, 631 East Water Street, Mt. Vernon IN 47620.

Stryper is in pre-production for their new record, which is due out in May/June.

Tourniquet is a new band signed to Intense/Frontline. Word has it that they play a very fast metal.

Sean Sellers, a teenager who is on death row for killing his parents, is an ex-satanist who has been born again by the life-changing power of Jesus! His testimony is pretty radical. He explains his initial exposure to satanism through the fantasy role-playing game of Dungeons and Dragons, and his entrance into satanism, which eventually led to taking the life of a convenience store clerk and then his parents. If you'd like a cassette tape of an interview with Sean, send \$5 (videos are \$25) to Phil Chalmers, PO Box 370101, Maple Hts OH 44137. Phil is going to be doing some Cornerstone-style witnessing interviews with some secular bands for Heaven's Metal in the future.

In response to the incredible ministry opportunity opened in the Soviet Union today, Integrity Hosanna! Music has released a worship tape in the Russian language. In my opinion, Integrity puts out the best worship tapes on the market. They make you feel like you're in an actual worship setting, because the worship leader is mixed above the congregation/choir. In a related ministry, if you'd like to send Christian metal tapes to a discotheque disc-jockey in the Soviet Union, they would be put to use for definite ministry. According to a knowledgeable source, parcels sent there may only contain up to two copies of the same item. This is the time to do stuff like



John Purdue, bassist and Nikki Sixx look-a-like, for Paradox (Photo by Kirk J. Crippens)

this, because it can get in. No one knows if this open door will remain open or for how long. Write: Alexander Ryzhkov, Svoboda St, 22-7, t. Volokolamsk, Moscow Region, 143630 USSR. (This is serious stuff, which could get Alexander into serious trouble, so please use wisdom in what you send, what you say, and how you package it.)

The Zion album, "Thunder From The Mountain" is finally available on cd! You can get it through Spring Arbor, or via mail-order through Long's Christian Music. Marlin Saner officially joined the band, taking Jeff Johnson's place on bass, I presume. They are going into the studio in March and April to record their follow-up album. David Zaffiro will produce again.

Armada has a new address: 395

Meadow Lane, Hastings MI 49058.

It looks like the German band Bloody Cross are going to record in Grand Slam studios and do a small tour in the U.S. this summer. For further info, contact Linda Patterson at: The Rock Shelter, 611 Michigan Ave, La Porte IN 46350, (219) 324-8214.

Two Funky Swine have released another product on Garbage Rekordz, called "Wallowing In The Blood Of Innocent Children". If you got the first tape, expect more of the noisy, spontaneous stuff.

The group Catalyst is working on recording an album on cassette and cd format. It shall be called "Paradise" and should be available by the time you read this. For info, write: PO Box 334, Northfield



OH 44067.

Jim & Mike of BC in Oklahoma City's "Spurs" (Photo by Michael S. Joray)

Bruce Vicknair has invented the "Midimonica", which converts voice audio to midi. For info, write: Bruce Vicknair, 910 Meadowbrook, Baytown TX 77521.

Proverbs is a band from Minnesota that's playing out quite a bit. For info, you can write 'em at: 20 Magnolia Lane, Plymouth MN 55441.

Paradox is opening for Sacred Warrior on several tour dates in February.

Final Axe added Bruce Menchen, Bill's cousin, as a second guitarist to fill out their sound.

Phillip Owens, the drummer for One Bad Pig, has released a custom tape of some funny and wild music.

Lightforce has a new guitarist, Patrick Comormond. Murray Adams left the band. He felt God was leading him to minister to street people.

Vocalist Rob Rock has formed his own band: Driver. This is the same name that was used to title the project that veteran session players, Rudy Sarzo, Tommy Aldridge, and Tony MacAlpine asked Rob to sing for in 1987. While a notorious international acclaim surrounded the band, lack of tour support caused the band to fizzle...the members of which obviously went on to bigger and better things. After singing for Joshua's "Intense Defense" album and the debut album for Angelica, Rob has pulled together two other former-Joshua members--Emil Lech-Brando on bass and Greg Schultz on keys--to form this awesome outfit. I've heard their music and drooled. Look for an interview with Rob in the next issue.

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Those of you who have Issue #19 may want to pull out the photo of Joshua to recognize the same players for Driver. Driver (left to right): Ray Z, on guitars: Greg Schultz, on keys; Rob Rock; Reynold Carlson, on drums; and Emil Lech-Brando, on bass.

LICKS & TRICKS

By Jeff Scheetz



Greetings Shredmongers!

I want to start this column off by thanking everyone who has ordered my Warp Speed tape! I really appreciate the tons of letters I've been getting, and I intend on answering them all.

My last two columns have dealt with some fundamentals of guitar playing, which are very important to players at all levels.

This month, however, I'd like to discuss a topic that I've been getting a lot of questions about. The questions have been pertaining to one technique I use that encompasses sweep picking and sliding. A good example of this is found in the song Warp Speed, the title track from my album. For those of you who have the tape and want to hear how it should sound, the arpeggios below occur during the drum break after the second solo. (And for those of you who don't have the tape, feel free to order one immediately!) Sorry, I couldn't resist that opportunity to take advantage of you with a cheap sales plug. Ha! Ha!

The entire line is played as a series of consecutive down or up strokes as opposed to alternate picking. n is used to signify a downstroke, and V an upstroke. You can use this technique on a myriad of arpeggio patterns. Pay close attention to pick stroke, keeping both hands synchronized, with all notes evenly spaced.

As always, start slowly, gradually building up to doom velocity! Next time, we'll cover some more of this craziness. Till then...be good!

8va - - - - -

8va - - - - -

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Recommendations this issue go to: Holy Soldier; "Burn This Record" by The Lead; "Spread The Fire" by Clinic; "The First Sin" by Whiteray; Retrace Live; "Ultimate Metal"; "Join Hands" by Charizma; "Beyond The Gates Of Hell" by Final Axe; and the Acceptance and Sabre's Edge demos.

Reviewers this time out are Marc Carpenter, Fred Z. and Doug Van Pelt.

HOLY SOLDIER

Here it is folks...the Holy Soldier debut album. It's been three years since you may have first heard about them in Heaven's Metal, and the hype has been heavy. This buzz has reached the point in the metal world to where people are saying, "Man, it better be good with all this hype."

Well, Holy Soldier delivers. This 10-song album is nothing short of melodic heaven. These Southern California cliff-divers play heavy metal. It's an original blend of commercial, melodic metal that can really stand up in the mainstream market and draw lots of attention.

Lead vocalist Steven Patrick gives the band the distinction that they need to compete in this market. Try blending Axl Rose, Don Dokken, and Joe Elliot together, and you'll get a good idea of his raspy, yet melodic, vocal style.

An astonishing mix by David Zaffiro allows each member of the band to shine. David's got two other excellent hard rockin' projects under his belt (Zion and his solo album), but this is his best effort yet. (Way to go David!)

The guitar work of Jamie Cramer and Michael Cutting is excellent throughout most of the album. The only guitar sounds that really didn't tickle my fancy were the first two songs, *Stranger* and *See No Evil*. The best guitar moments come on side two with the awesome ballad, *Eyes Of Innocence*, and the rockin' *We Are Young, We Are Strong*.

Andy Robbins' bass is really punchin' throughout this disk. The mix really did Andy justice. Standout bass lines are featured in *See No Evil*, *Cry Out For Love*, *Love Me*, and especially the intro to *When The Reign Comes Down*.

Drummer Terry Russell gets his shot at getting noticed with his bass drum attack on *We Are Young...* and cracks his snare loudly on *Cry Out For Love*. The whole rhythm section really rocks tight on *Tear Down The Walls*.

I love this album! The song structuring is exceptional, the BGV's are big, the mix is flawless, and each song offers something different. It's got your metal rockers, your tear-jerkin' ballads, and good lyrics to boot.

Stranger reminds me of Larry Norman's classic, *The Outlaw*. It does a good job of presenting Who Jesus is:

"People talk about Him/ And His ways they can't explain/ Others come against Him/ And His reckless claim to fame/ He's an axiom/ He's the maximum/ He's a rebel and He's got a cause/ Don't try and lock Him up/ He's the One Who makes the laws."

See No Evil is a powerful tune about the murder of unborn children.

"I float inside her womb/ Oh mother, I am coming soon/ Suddenly, fear and dread/ When mother says she wants me dead/ Oh, how could you do this to me."

An ethereal chorus of small children trades vocal lines with the band, chanting, "Thousands come/ Thousands go/ Day by day/ The numbers grow."

Cry Out For Love sings about a believer who has found the Lord, and, wanting more of His love, discovers that God has more to give.

Tear Down The Walls delivers the hopeful message that Jesus can tear down the walls that we've built up inside.

Lies exposes the deceitfulness of the Proverbs 7 lady:

"The web she weaves/ Is so receptive/ But beauty fleeting/ Oh, and charm's deceptive/ She leads you in/ To the fire/ To fan the flames/ Of her desire."

The music to this song matches the mood of the lyrics perfectly. The guitar sounds vary from melodic, acoustic picking to singing leads.

My favorite tunes are: the mega-melodic *Eyes Of Innocence*, complete with guitar leads that bleed with feeling; *The Pain Inside Of Me*, a haunting ballad with the perfect separation and mix of guitar, keys, bass, and drums (the chorus here has the definite BGV production trademark of David Zaffiro stamped on it); *We Are Young...*, with its rapid-fire start and rippin' leads; and *Love Me*, which incorporates a post-modern guitar sound. A few bands have used this alternative guitar sound to good effect—The Cult and Bang Tango. Holy Soldier refines the use with a great performance.

I think time (and sales) will prove that Holy Soldier accomplished the tough task set before them. They had to face all the aforementioned hype, plus the pressure of being the first metal act through the corporate machine of Myrrh Records...which meant the record had to be smokin' hot. Well, ouch! It is. It is. And don't worry, it may be melodic heaven, but it's not wimp city.

—DV

"UNDERGROUND METAL 2"

—VARIOUS

Kick In The Gates Of Hell, a cut off the brilliant commercial metal release, "Thunder From The Mountain", by above-ground Zion, starts this average metal album off with a sparkle.

Victim Of The Night comes next with a fine performance by the commercial rocker Phil Accardi's Chalice.

Apocalypse Prepare by the thrash group Thresher is a hot number, complete with

crunchin' guitars and smashing cymbals.

I wish I could say that the rest of the album stayed at this level of excellence, but it doesn't. Garage-level tunes follow that are pretty good—they just don't stand out of the crowd.

Knightriot should appeal to heavy rockin' fans of early Saint. Image sounds similar to H.E.R.O., from the Cal Metal days.

Remnant plays a progressive metal style similar to Iron Maiden with some big commercial choruses.

Final Warning dishes up a decent time change near the end of Listen, but never delivers a good hook.

Xalt puts in a straight-ahead performance, which sounds more like a rehash of old riffs than a fresh breath of creativity.

This is one that collectors will want to have, for sure. There are definitely three killer tunes here, but the rest of the album could use some growth in the songwriting area and some seasoning as a band to get tighter. Nothing is bad on this album, but I'm sure it won't be remembered in ten years.

—DV

"HARDCORE BEATNIKS"

—FOOLS AND STRANGERS

Here's a wild, hilarious tape full of punky tones and tongue-in-cheek lyrics. The production is terrible, which could be expected from The Plague members who put this out. The tunes this time are much better. Some of the tunes have good commercial tones, like *I Don't Understand Girls*.

To order, send \$5 to: Jay A. Minde-man, Gravel Rd, Adams ND 58210.

—DV

"UNDER AN EXTRA TENT"

—JASON UNDERGROUND

Here's a wacko tape that was partially recorded at Cornerstone. Nothing seems strange about that, does it? Well, how about the fact that the recording was done in the campground outside Jason's tent?

The lyrics are funny and the music is of the acoustic/folk variety. The funniest tune is a lament on the American mindset on sex: "If I say that love is free/ It doesn't mean I wanna have an orgy."

To order send \$4.50 (\$7 foreign—Int'l Money Orders only) to: The Furnace Room, 10556 Lincoln Street SE, East Canton OH 44730.

—DV

SEVENTH SIGN - (Demo)

Here's some heavy metal with a hook. Remember David Enos of Emerald? Well, David's grown a mustache and joined this band now, cranking out some tough guitar tones.

White Lies starts off the tape with a good hook and some heavy rockin'. The next tune, *Commitment* lags a bit behind in the hook area, only saved in parts by some excellent leads.



Brenda Wilmuth, who lists Gospel as one of her main influences, lets her roots show in *Amazing Grace*, which closes the tape with a heavy blues backdrop.

For ordering info, write: Seventh Sign, PO Box 749, Bloomington CA 92316.

-DV

DEAD END STREET - CANAAN

Canaan, which is fronted by vocalist Karen Minton, put out a tape called "Neverland" a couple years ago that took a decent stab at the pop rock format. With this release, the band goes after a hard rock style similar to early Pat Benatar...and does a pretty good job at it.

Most of the songs are still very pop, but incorporate some good guitar work into it.

Liar has a cool sax throughout the song. *Out Of The Blue*, meanwhile, is a guitar instrumental based on a Paganini piece (He's the classic violinist who legend says sold his soul to play faster). It has too much keyboards and a syrupy intro melody, but the leads start to smoke as it goes on. I bet it's hot live.

Real World and the title track are the two strongest rockers.

Available at most Christian bookstores.

-DV

SOUL WINDOWS - EUROCLYDON

Here's an interesting tape of varying sounds. The first two songs, *Reflect*, and *Settle It*, take you from contemplative instrumental to frantic post-punk Euro-pop.

This is bizarre, alternative, different, wacko, uh, er...very entertaining; with lots of effects, sound effects, and spoken voices thrown in.

Definitely not metal, but I'd recommend it as a novelty alone. If ya want to hear something genuinely strange, get "Soul Windows".

To order, send \$5 (Checks payable to Paul C. Hedges) to: Euroclydon, c/o Punq

SEVENTH SIGN

C. Hedgez, 146 Balmoral Ave #9, Biloxi MS 39531.

-DV

OVERRULED - MERCY RULE

Upon first listen to this album, I perceived all the disappointments. Here's a band with the potential to sound great. Their vocalist, Aaron Byrnes, has the European accent and style of a Klaus Meine (Scorpions), but the song structures fail to showcase his voice properly.

The only song that immediately worked was the ballad, *If Only You Knew*. Here we have some classy songwriting and emotional lyrics. The only thing that could've been better here would be improved guitar tones, especially since the leads are mixed so well.

The rhythm track for *There's A Love* and most of the album is of the garage variety.

After several listens, this album really began to grow on me. The first time I heard it, I didn't want to hear it again. Now it's graduated from "here's another tape in the collection" to "I've gotta have a cd of this!"

What I missed on initial listenings was any good hooks. Buried beneath poor to average production are some decent tunes. Standout cuts are *Cecilia*, *Black And White*, and *Prodigal*.

Most of the lyrics deal with the prodigal state of a person's walk. Either they have never known God's love or they need to come back.

This young band has lots of potential. This is an okay debut, but if they had a blockbuster producer really working over their tunes and stretching the band in their songwriting and playing...this could've been a dynamite album.

-DV

ULTIMATE METAL - VARIOUS

I would shy away from using the word "ultimate" to describe this album, but I

think it is better than any of the other Christian metal compilation albums released. I mean, any compilation album with "Burn" by Vengeance on it gets my thumbs up.

The only shortcome I see is including Petra (who, by the way, appear on three of the four Ultimate Series albums: metal; rock; and dance??). Where is Stryper? Bloodgood? Barren Cross? It seems someone's loyalty to Star Song got in their way of song selection. If I had to include a Petra tune on here, it would've been "Mine Field"; not "All Fired Up".

The roster also includes other bands we've come to know and love: Sacred Warrior, with *Sword Of Victory*; Whitecross, with *Living In A Lost World*; Rage Of Angels, with *Do You Still Believe In Love*; One Bad Pig, with *Let's Be Frank*; Rez, with *Shadows* (yeah!!); Neon Cross, with *Heartbreaker* (glad to see they pulled something from these crunchers); Shout, with what I consider one of their best tunes—*Faith, Hope & Love*; Mastodon, with guest appearance by X-Sinner's Dave Robbins on *It's A Jungle Out There*; Scarlet Red's *You Live Fast* (which I think is their best tune); and something quite rare these days—a cut by Messiah Prophet, *Blinded*. The song was written by recent members added to vocalist Charlie Clarke's surviving band.

If you want to introduce someone to a good cross-section of Christian metal, this is it.

-DV

ACCEPTANCE - (Demo)

Here's a very talented band from the Detroit, Michigan area. These guys sound like they know what they're doin'. I bet they've played in clubs awhile. The songs are crafted well, the band's tight, and the performance is good.

This 3-song demo is over before you know it, but definitely lets the listener know they can rock.

For ordering info, contact Ted Maluchnick @: 8208 Karam #2, Warren MI 48093.

-DV

SABRE'S EDGE - (Demo)

This band has a good hard-rockin' sound on this 5-song tape.

Rock Soldier stands out with a great hook in it, reminding me of a Triumph anthem.

Vocal production could be improved in areas, making this fun/party band a hit beyond Detroit, Michigan.

Like Acceptance, this group can be reached by writing Ted Maluchnick (See previous review).

-DV

RETRACE LIVE! - RETRACE

This live recording captures the heavy melodic of this Swedish quartet. With only a few flaws in the mix, like a lot of high frequencies at times and the audience not participating too loudly during sing-along invi-

tations, this custom tape rocks.

Songs like **Hold On Tight** have tons of energy, complete with screams and wailing guitars.

If any of you liked their earlier cassette, you'll love this one, cause it adds that little bit of energy and punch to each song.

To order, send \$8 in cash or Int'l Money Order (to keep the band from hassling with their bank, trying to deposit a foreign check) to: Metal Cross Productions, c/o Samuel Durling, Hallmansv. 26, S-55259 Jonkoping, Sweden.

-DV

SPREAD THE FIRE - CLINIC

Hot stuff! The title track comes screamin' through the speakers with a party rock energy a la Van Halen with tons of clarity and fidelity. Impressive rhythm section and guitar sounds.

Closet Child is a smokin' tune, with lots of energy, good drumming, and nice guitar work. This is "heaven sent rock for the hell bent flock".

For ordering info, write: 31 Warren Ave, Plymouth MA 02360.

-DV

TWISTED AND BENT - BAD BOY BUTCH BATSON

For those fans of dementia, here's a tape full of awful tunes with incredibly bad production. Imagine sitting around with a tape recorder, a guitar, a slide whistle, some pots and pans, a willing backup vocalist, and decided to come up with 12 songs on the spot. That's what this sounds like.

You'll roll on the floor laughing listening to this. For info, write: X Records, 109 C Whitsett St, Greenville SC 29601.

-DV

REMNANT - (Demo)

Here's a 9-song tape that shows off more energy and passion than their one cut on "Underground Metal 2". The production quality is a little lame due to its 4-track limitations, but I was overall impressed by the tape. It shows a good view of the band and all their diversity. They go from progressive rockers, like **Can't You See**, to tender ballads, like **Skin Deep**.

Some of the songs lack a cohesive direction, such as the super-long instrumental, **Karen**, but the songwriting does show an ability to come up with a good hook. The performance on most of the faster tunes exhibit lots of energy.

The tape starts off with plenty of humor, as a phony dj announces the easy-going format to be played.

Victory Child shows lots of vocal harmonies, which come off pretty good.

Run From The Darkness has a good hook, but the choral chant of "Run" suffered a lot in the production.

You Give Me A Reason has some hot singin' on it and some exceptional double

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CLINIC

leads of the melodic nature.

Sea Of Crystal, which shows the current stylistic direction of the band, has a very progressive rhythm pulsating behind the upfront, melodic vocals.

Overall, **Remnant** shows lots of promise. They're definitely a band to keep an eye on. This is a thumbs up demo.

To order, send \$6 to: Tim Kyle, 628 Cherokee #2, Kalamazoo MI 49007. (Make checks payable to Tim Kyle).

-DV

THE ROCK CRIES OUT - PETRA PRAISE

Here's a project that really could've met the worship needs of lots of rock and rollers out there. Instead, the final product seems to have met the needs of the record company or the band itself. This could've been a real rockin' worship tape, but the massive use of choirs and super slick production steals the possibility.

Having said that, let me say that there are a few exceptions here. **I Love The Lord**, the lead-off cut on the album, comes screaming out of the speakers at full-blown heavy metal tilt. The bass is thumping along with the drums and the guitars; and the guitars are distorted. This is, like, a first for Petra, which impressed me dramatically.

The next tune, **King Of Kings**, comes on heavy, but the vocals are mixed in a pseudo-rock choir sound that strikes me more

as conservative folks trying to rock out than it does rockers doing worship.

The big **Petra Praise** packet includes an accompaniment track and a songbook, which might work great with youth choirs. As an album, though, this release doesn't work on the stereo as a hot listening album.

Friends (All In The Family Of God) is a 50's takeoff. Overall, this isn't really a Petra album, but a choral album accompanied by the band.

-DV

JOHNNY SPREEN - (Demo)

Here's a tape that shows the raw talent of Johnny Spreen. If you like the feel of, most of the David Gilmour/Pink Floyd stuff (minus the mega-production), you'll love this.

This 3-song tape is a rough, rough mix that's missing a final mix, but that doesn't hold back this man's talent. It's there. The poor fidelity fits the mood of the music anyway, kind of like well-worn leather.

The lyrics are insightful well-written:

"Hey, hey red, white and blue; stars and stripes, yeah you/ Sin soaked cursed land/ seems to me it's getting out of hand/ Your lust for sin and sex and drugs will drown you/ The hate, the wars, the lies, the death/ will surround you."—America

For ordering info, write: Johnny Spreen, 375 Harding Circle, Bayville NJ 08721.

-DV

CRY HOSANNA! - LIFELINE

Here's a hard-rockin' demo with some decent production. Guitarists Tyrone and Chris Williamson do some good guitar pickin'. Seasons features a Rush-style series of sudden chords played by the band and then silenced; where the drummer hits his cymbal in synch with the band and grabs the cymbal to silence the sound each time.

Overall, the musicianship is pretty hot on this 3-song tape. The only thing holding the music back is the vocal quality, which would fit well with real heavy drudge rock or speed metal—but not as well with this progressive, commercial hard rock.

For ordering info, write: Tyrone Williamson, 33 Kenneth Place, Apt. 6, Ocean-side NY 11572.

-DV

FOOTPRINTS - SOLUTION

Here's the debut effort from a European commercial metal band called Solution. Like the band Europe, the keyboards play a prominent role in the mix, but without wimping the song out. Guitarist Jonny Wester lays down some pretty good licks in Footprints.

Higher Ground, the "B" side, is another good song in the same vein. Drummer Peter Westin makes his presence known a little more. Jonny Wester, who handles vocals as well as guitar, has the accent of his homeland—Sweden, which adds a little style to his performance.

Overall, the band has some growing to do, but shows some potential in their songwriting. Hopefully, this band of three years will continue to rock on and offer us more and more music as they grow.

For ordering info on this 7" vinyl, write: Solution, c/o Rune Bertilsson, Pemkampsv. 8, 82026 Marmaverken, Sweden.

-DV

THE FIRST SIN - WHITERAY

Whiteray did a pretty good job producing this 4-song tape. The engineering job by Howie Gano helps the songs stand out by offering clarity.

The guitars by Anthony Bouling have a good crunch and tone. The picking intro to *Blood On My Hands* is hot also. The rhythm section sounds tight here and the song has a good hook. It's a heavy tune.

The title track has some singing that wails a little too much, if you ask me. A little subtlety may have worked a lot better.

Behind the snake coiled around the apple artwork—which is almost identical to the "Come 'N' Get It" album come by Whitesnake—is some smokin' music.

Charades Behind The Mask is another standout cut. Dale Thompson of Bride lent his background vocals on *To Die Is To Gain*.

To order, send \$5 to: Whiteray,

5307 Matterhorn Dr, Louisville KY 40216.

-DV

PETRA MEANS ROCK - PETRA

"Best Of" albums usually spring up after a band's broken up or, as in this case, when they leave on label for another. It's another way for the record company to get a little more return on their investment.

This will be a trip down memory lane for some who grew up on Petra's pop rock sounds. I don't think this album really appeals to headbangers too much, because even the rockers on this tape still don't get heavy and crunchy enough to classify as heavy metal. In concert, a lot of these tunes are beefed up for a more rockin' sound. *Shakin' The House*, in my opinion, is their best tune. Glad to see it was included.

-DV

BURN THIS RECORD - THE LEAD

Awright! Here's some hardcore to tear your ears off with. I need to mention a One Bad Pig joke here: "Disneyland is going to create a special 'Julio Room' for people who like to listen to hardcore at unbearable volume levels." This joke came as a result of the Pig playing with The Lead this fall in Charlotte, North Carolina, where they noticed Julio's affection for loud, screamin' guitars.

There's plenty of those loud, screeching, scraping, clawing, and crunching guitars on this album. Inside all the heavy duty noise is plenty of good words.

The Lead lets the world know that *Suicide Is A Lie* and that God can heal your Internal Pain and give you hope to *Change The World*.

Skate Or Die takes the popular slogan to explain that Jesus died for us. "If you're not skating for the King of Kings/ Then you're not skating for anything."

Making his debut appearance for The Lead is additional guitarist Andy Coyle, which gives the band the double crunch to fill out their sound.

Thrashers will want to buy this record instead of burning it. It's way rad.

-DV

SIMPLE EXPERIENCE - VECTOR

Yes, this is the hip pop/rock band that was signed to Exit Records and hasn't been heard from in over four years. After two fine releases, *Mannequin Virtue* and *Please Stand By*, the band has lacked a good record deal. Hence, this independent release on GaGa Records offers starving fans a choice selection of music.

Hardly near the metal category, these tunes seem to be a little heavier and darker than their previous material. Tunes like *I Burn Myself Away* feature a solid rhythm section and upfront guitars. Like many post-modern/alternative bands today, Vector rocks while laying down a good dance groove.

The lyrics here offer resolution to the dark suffering communicated: "My soul no

longer bound is free/ from creations of the world/ above itself it's hurled into life/ leaning only on God/ the world will clarify at last, what I esteem of highest grace/ my soul revealing it can rest."

I Wait For You, while coming across as a double-meaning crossover tune, still communicates a Job-like patience: "In darkness and winter, I wait for you...through all eternity I would have to be a fool/ to think that anything under the sun could compare to you."

Have Mercy is pretty upfront in its message, which includes a lament on the murder of unborn children. Fine Line shows the struggle of one trying to live above sin: "I'm a sinner, it's in my blood/ and I'm dying, that's for sure/ when that joker raises his head/ that's one thing only death can cure/ I'm only a man doing the best I can/ and I won't give up the fight/ but sometimes I feel like a man that's/ trying to strike a match on a rainy night/ livin' on the one side/ running from the other/ it's only a fine line."

This collection of tunes is one that is sure to please fans of early U2 and bands like The Cure. It's one of the better alternative releases of the year, because of the fine chops and songwriting of guitarist Jim Abegg and bassist/vocalist Steve Griffith.

If you'd like a compact disc of this nicely-produced 9-song release, send \$14 (plus \$2 shipping and handling) to: GaGa Records, 8475 Barton Road, Roseville CA 95661. (For cassettes, send \$10 plus \$2 S&H).

-DV

AWAKENING FROM THE WESTERN DREAM - PAUL CLARK

Here's another long-time artist making a return to the public. This guy's music has been around since the Jesus movement, where he jammed with guys like John Mehler and Jay Truax in some folky, roots rock. In the late seventies to early eighties, he released several solo albums in the light jazz/rock vein of The Doobie Brothers, Toto, or Steely Dan.

Time and time again I've returned to his excellently produced albums, like *Aim For The Heart* or *Out Of The Shadows* for personal worship and good ole musical pleasure. Paul Clark has always seemed to set very high standards in his songwriting and production quality. Standards that others tried to follow.

This release remains true to those standards with music that stylistically doesn't veer too far from his light jazz/rock sound.

The thing I like best about Paul's music is his penmanship. Check out these lyrics:

"Life is an arena, the stage has been set/ Sad most are swayed by the populous bet..."—*So They Say*

"Life on the fault line can be dangerous to the soul/ Harder to reach you when you think you're in control/ Deaf to the warning even from your closest friends/ After disaster it's the same familiar end/ Foxhole Confession, empty promises to me...When your back is to the wall/ It's the only time you call my name...Back in control, you have forgot that it's by grace/ Just a matter of time 'til you find your old familiar place."—*Foxhole Confession*

More Heat Than Light offers "an exhortation from the lessons" that Paul has learned about how we measure out grace to others. "...the iron fist offers far more heat than light."

Good spiritual food and excellent, mellow rock that goes down smooth without leaving a sugary sweet aftertaste. Know what I mean?

Available at your local Christian bookstore via Spring Arbor Distributors.
-DV

CRYING FOR YOU, BABY
(The Operation Rescue Album)
- VARIOUS ARTISTS

Even though this is an adult contemporary music compilation, which I'm usually not into, this is a GREAT tape. Ten artists unite against abortion, and the message rings out loud and clear. The standout cut is definitely **A Malediction** by Kemper Crabb, who is a big King's X fan and is Doug Pinnick's fellow church member, by the way. Musically, it has a very Middle Eastern (Pakistani, Indian, Arabian) sound which fits perfectly with some of the best lyrics I have ever heard.

Check this out: "When viewed in terms of cost and ease, an unborn child is a disease/ a hollow cost seen fit to please our own convenience...Torn from out of their mother's womb, denied the sky, denied a tomb/ conceived in lust to their own ruin, a sacrifice to pleasure/ A curse, a curse! The heavens shout/ A curse on him who dares to flout God's image in mankind." This is **POWERFUL STUFF**.

Randall Terry's famous and thought-provoking **When The Battle Raged** is remixed from its original version (The original is much better, because Randy really gets into it. On this version, it's more mellow), as is **Crying For You, Baby**. If you haven't heard **When The Battle Raged** before, you've really missed something.

Another standout cut is **Freedom And Justice**, written by Bob Ayala of Last Days Ministries and sung by Rick Crawford. The song first talks about murderers Charles Manson and Sirhan Sirhan, and is followed with the chorus, "You got life, you got life, you got life...the courts demand was to give you life." Then the last verse states, "Baby, there's no safety in the womb/ Saline or the scalpel take you to the tomb/ How could you be so wicked to be conceived at such a time, when inconvenience is such a heinous crime? You got death, you got death, you got death/ You got court-condemned before you ever took a breath/ Because you were not there, the court's demand was to give you death/ One nation with freedom and justice for?"

You can order this tape directly from Operation Rescue if it is not available in your Christian bookstores. Cassette is \$9 and cd is \$14. You can also order the original tape **When The Battle Raged** by Randall Terry for \$7. Operation Rescue also has a video called "When The Battle Raged", which is extremely powerful as well. It is only \$10.

O.R. has a new address: National Clergy Council, PO Box 2035, Binghamton NY 13902. Phone (607) 723-4012.

-MC

LAST CALL - DETOUR

Detour is one hot rockin' band from Southern California that is one of the more refreshing new bands to emerge in Christendom. The band covers a vast spectrum of styles ranging from ballads to metal.

Don Fraser's lead vocals can go from soothing to piercing. Lewis David is an accomplished lead guitarist, who is very fast and smooth. Eric Turner, from the Darrell Mansfield Band, lends his axe-playing for the biting satiristic **B.M.W.**, which carries a story about a man who thinks his spirituality is reflected by how much he's "blessed", like owning a BMW. It's very funny, yet seriously effective.

The music is mostly of the commercial FM-rock variety. If you can imagine a cross between .38 Special and Journey, you'll have a good idea of their sound. The production quality is very good compared to most custom releases.

To order a copy of the tape, call His Image Productions at: (714) 538-3560.

-FZ

MOSH TO RELAX TO
- PROPHETS ON VACATION

Here's some garage thrash with lots of humor and heavy music. The production is below-average and some of the song structures lack a good hook, but the band shows some tightness and heavy chops.

A couple of surprises emerge, besides the ad-libs between songs, them being the inclusion of The **B-I-B-L-E** song that you used to sing in Sunday school and **God Rules** mosh style.

Interesting lyrics are found in **Land Of The Free And The Grave**, which obviously comments on the sinful state of our nation: "Welcome to the land of perversity/ Human man is wallowing in spiritual poverty/ Our God has turned His back on sin/ And they have turned their backs on Him."

The **Heavy Metal Song** seems to possibly be a rebuke to a band like Stryper. No names are mentioned, but the Isaiah 53:5 reference is printed next to the song title and the lyrics say this: "You're a real pretty boy now/ an' you play guitar/ But where's Jesus in it? You're a big rock star/ The girls really like you, but not for your brains/ You call yourself a Christian, but it's just not the same/ You got a personal disorder, you don't know who you are/ You wanna play for Jesus, but you took it too far/ Jesus ain't your business, fame is your goal/ Are you ashamed of Jesus? You're gonna lose control!" Whoa nelly! Regardless who it's directed to, it's a message that needs to be told.

Other tidbits included are simple thrash arrangements that stir it up with instruments and occasionally stopping with a shout of "mosh!"

If you'd like this tape, send \$5 (checks made payable to: David Anderson) to: P.O.V., 8 NW 67th Street, Gladstone MO 64118.

-DV

REACH FOR THE CROWN
- CROWN OF THORNS

Here's some heavy duty tunes with a mega-muddy mix. The double guitar attack of Dee Rosario and Ryan McDonald put out a definite crunch worth banging your head to. What's surprising is the hot vocals by Lauralee White. The production quality almost makes the tape unlistenable (it sounds like it was recorded through a jambox, even though it was a 24-track mixer in the basement), but Lauralee's vocals are some of the best female vocals I've heard in Christian heavy metal. She sings low and doesn't screech or extend her voice too far.

This tape includes four songs with the present lineup and three songs with the old lineup, which included another singer.

To order, send \$5 to: C.O.T. c/o Doug Riesberg, 2610 Rosedale Dr, Morrow GA 30260.

-DV

THE MINTS (Demo)

This 8-song tape should appeal to most fans of gut-level street rock ala The Altar Boys, LSU, and 441. This unit was the band that Mark Krischak (of Lifesavers fame) played with while in Japan. 19 Times features a happenin', thumpin' bass line that's similar to The Cult's recent music.

I Guess makes some interesting observations about heroes in our society: "Heroes made the stand/ heroes made the fall/ You've had it all once/ And you've lost it all...if we didn't have them/ What would we do?...They are only people/ Just flesh and blood."

This tape, plus over 120 other tapes are available from Mark. To get this one, send \$4 to: Mark Krischak, 2611 Yorba Linda Blvd #301, Fullerton CA 92631.

-DV

BEYOND HELL'S GATE
- FINAL AXE

Here's a rockin' tape from Keith Miles and company. You might remember Keith from the band Holy Right...or you may know him as the promoter for the Metal Midnight concerts. Here's a 10-song, full-length tape and cd complete with nice four-color artwork and solid production and fidelity.

The title track starts this album off with choruses of screams in an eerie movie soundtrack-type instrumental.

Guitars kick in and scream for **Baptized In Blood**, which carries a cool riff courtesy of guitarist Bill Menchen.

The standout cut would probably be the thrashin' tune **Close To Deliverance**. It's not as fast as lots of speed metal, but it flies nevertheless. Keith's vocals work well with this style of music.

:45 Scream is a guitar solo, which has the guitar tones that are featured throughout the album. I'm reminded of Molly Hatchet's double guitar sound.



Keith Miles of Final Axe

A rare addition in the lyrics printed here are several scripture references inserted in specific parts of the songs. Here's an example in **No Time To Die**:

"It's time for war, so take your sword in hand (Eph. 6:17)/ The beast is dead, his blood is running red (Rom. 16:20)/ Yourtime is short, what have you done? (James 4:14)/ You've played a game, can you tell me who's to blame? (Rev. 21:8)."

Overall, this is a tight band, but the vocals sound a little raw for the upfront hooks written into the songs, which keeps the band from being as commercially viable as they could be. I think they've found their niche in the one thrashy tune, **Close To Deliverance**.

To order, send \$7 for the cassette or \$12 for the cd (plus \$1.50 handling) to: Final Axe, PO Box 520, Mira Loma CA 91752-0520.

-DV

LAST ADAM (Demo)

This commercial rock band was produced and mixed very well here. These guys fare very well in the Petra-style arena of pop-rock. The keys at time lame out the music with a Crumbacher-type synth-pop sound, but the band does what they do well.

Lord Of Israel comes quaking through the speakers with a big, harmonious chorus before the prominent keys kick in.

The standout cut would probably be the one with the hardest edge: **Only A Fool**, which takes a slam at those foolish enough to deny God.

For ordering information, write: Last Adam, c/o Shawn Fitzgerald, 820 Stafford Ave #30, Bristol CT 06010.

-DV

JOIN HANDS - CHARIZMA

Alright! Here's a four-song EP pressed on clear vinyl that showcases two new tunes: the title track; and **Take You High**.

Join Hands was inspired from the concert Charizma played over in the Soviet Union's country of Estonia. Charizma's hometown of Oskarshamn in Sweden signed a friendship agreement with Parnu in Estonia, kind of like a sister-city pact. They played the song over there to a warm response. The tune is another fine piece of melodic/commercial hard rock from this talented band. It's a little more commercial/mellow than previous material, including lots of keyboards and nicely-produced background vocals, but it still rocks.

The second song, **Take You High**, is more similar to Charizma's previous material with a harder edge. Hot stuff the Nikolausson brothers and Mats Tarnfors on keyboards. The lyrics talk about the band presenting the Lord's fire and power to their audiences via rock and roll all over the world.

For those of you who never got the **Turn Me On** single, here's your chance to hear this hot tune about the cheapness of the world's love compared to the faithfulness of God's love. **Where Do You Stand** is one of the good tunes off their **Rock The World** album released in 1985.

For ordering info, write: Daniel Nordstrom, Pl. 6511 Ersmark, S-902 66 Umea, Sweden.

-DV

TOP TEN METAL SINGLES

- 1 "Attention Please" - Whitecross
- 2 "Livin' On The Edge" - X-Sinner
- 3 "No Time" - Deliverance
- 4 "Get It" - X-Sinner
- 5 "Master's Command" - Sacred Warrior
- 6 "Shine On Me" - Angelica
- 7 "Top Of The Mountain" - Bloodgood
- 8 "Out Of Time" - Barren Cross
- 9 "Breakin' The Chains" - Watchmen
- 10 "Where Are You Now?" - David Zaffiro

MOST PLAYED METAL ALBUMS

- 1 "Get It" - X-Sinner
- 2 "Triumphant Return" - Whitecross
- 3 "Deliverance" - Deliverance
- 4 "Master's Command" - Sacred Warrior
- 5 "Gretchen Goes To Neb." - King's X
- 6 "Extraction From Mort." - Believer
- 7 "State Of Control" - Barren Cross
- 8 "It's A Jungle..." - Mastodon
- 9 "Out Of The Darkness" - Bloodgood
- 10 "Innocent Blood" - Rez

Both of those listings were provided for courtesy the Pure Rock Report, The Ground Floor's tri-weekly metal/rock radio industry tip sheet. (Quite a mouthful, eh?) Those two

lists were compiled from several radio stations and shows which feature metal.

The following listing is from an isolated station in Fort Myers, Florida-Dale Early's "Tempered Steel" show.

TEMPERED STEEL'S TOP TWENTY

- 1 Believer "Extraction..."
- 2 Deliverance "Deliverance"
- 3 Vengeance "Human Sacrifice"
- 4 Bride "Live To Die"
- 5 Martyr "Death Is Dead" & "Imminent..."
- 6 Sacred Warrior "Rebellion"
- 7 The Lead "The Past Behind"
- 8 Barren Cross "Atomic Arena"
- 9 The Crucified "Take Up..." & "Nailed"
- 10 The Warning "Repent...", "Virgin..." & "Cut..."
- 11 Blairing Out "Blairing Out"
- 12 Lightforce "Mystical Thieves"
- 13 Lust Control "Condom Nation" & "Dancing..."
- 14 Thresher "Totally Possessed"
- 15 Neon Cross "Neon Cross"
- 16 Second Chance "Blazing Wasteland"
- 17 Apostle "Hymns"
- 18 Recon "Recon"
- 19 Bloodgood "Bloodgood" & "Detonation"
- 20 One Bad Pig "Christian Banned" & "Smash"

CONCERT REVIEW

Guardian

Guardian played in Warwick, Rhode Island at Gorton Jr. High, where such bands as Sentry, Whitecross, and Barren Cross have played this year. The show was supposed to start at 7 pm, but not to be. First of all, Believer, the opening band, never showed up and no one knows why. Plus, Believer had the PA system. Rock Island promotions had to go out and rent one for the night. When it was announced that Believer wouldn't be there, at least half the people left, but more showed later to join the people who remained. In the long run, it was an okay turnout. At 8:45 the doors finally opened. It was a pretty cold and long wait, considering it was the middle of November. After the long and boring soundcheck, Guardian finally hit the stage at 10:10 pm. They opened up with **Kingdom Of Rock**.

Guardian burned through all of their songs from the "First Watch" tape, except **Saint's Battalion**. They also played **Marching On** and **Hyperdrive** from the cd version, and a brand new song not quite finished, which they tested out. Tony played a good guitar solo and Rikk played the best drum solo I've ever heard. Everyone wanted David to do a bass solo, so finally he did. Not to mention it was the first one he's ever done.

They finished after 50 minutes. Then they played not one, not two, but three encores. The concert ended 40 minutes later at 11:40. During the second encore, Tony, David, and Rikk just jammed for about 10 to 12 minutes, non-stop.

Concert Review cont'd on next page

Concert Review Cont'd:

They showed great stage maneuvers. No one stayed still for more than two minutes, except during the ballad, *Miracle*. My favorites were *Kingdom Of Rock*, *I'll Never Leave You*, *Livin' For The Promise*, *Rock In Victory*, and *Marching On*. In my opinion, it was worth the wait once it started.

It's too bad Believer never showed up. They are probably one of the best live bands. However, Guardian's truly a great live band.

—Matt Craig

RAGING ANGELS

I write this letter trying not to judge or to criticize, but rather to show love and concern. I have read of your bitterness and disillusionment concerning the Christian music industry, and I realize what a discouraging thing it is to see people who claim to be something and live totally different. It isn't only in big companies and organizations, but also in the smallest of churches.

I believe all of us have, at one time or another, been let down by someone we've had faith or confidence in. Ironically, as you face this problem in your lives, so will many young people who look up to R.O.A.

—Tony Bolt

Independence VA

P.S. I'm sorry for your loss and will remember you and your family in my prayers.

The ROA interview gave those on the outside of the Christian music industry a slight glimpse of its sad reality; and to those of us who are in it—just another confirmation of the lack of spiritual care and depth and an overall stupidity that continues to exist, by all parties.

—Rex Scott (Zion)
Sioux Falls SD

The ROA article was at first shocking and surprising to me. But after I thought about it, I decided to be neutral. If the Christian music industry is like how ROA said it is, then God is gonna make some changes.

I still think ROA is a great band and I'll still buy their tapes, even though I was a little disappointed with both the industry and ROA. After all, I'm not perfect either. Jesus Christ is the only One Who is perfect.

Thanks for having the guts to print this article. It made me think about myself and see if I have cleaned my house for God to enter in. Thanks for a great magazine!

—Chris Irvin
Stone Mountain GA

Out of all the interviews with members of Christian metal bands, I have never read one as disturbing and saddening as the one with Dan Mariano, of what used to be Raging Angels.

Dan, we love you, and we are so sad to see what you're being deceived into doing. We know that the Bible has some

unequivocal commands and promises in it, and we know that the Bible, not any human, is judging you by your actions. All throughout Proverbs, the writer says things like, "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid." (Pr. 12:6); "He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored." (Pr. 13:18) Please see this as life-giving correction.

I know that you're fed up with a lot of the hypocrisy that you see around you. But hypocrisy of others is no reason to lower the standards God has set for you. Hypocrites will get their reward. It is up to each individual person to be accountable to God.

I urge all of you readers to pray fervently for Dan and the rest of the band members and to urge them, as well as urge ourselves, not to be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2).

—Marc D. Carpenter
12 Ethan Allen Ave #38
Colchester VT 05446

—(Lots of letters have come in as a result of the Raging Angels interview in Issue #21, which is sold out. The thing I appreciate the most about your letter was the call to pray for the guys in ROA.)

Consider this: Maybe our prayers could've prevented ROA's fall. Concerning recent quotes by the members of Stryper in the secular press about not attending church and "we still kick a**": we need to be praying, not talking about, praying for the real people that make up the band Stryper...and any band we're concerned about. When James said that "the fervent prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much", what did he mean? Can we accomplish something by praying? Does God act according to our prayers? When Paul prayed for those he was writing to be strengthened (Colossians 1:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:17; and Ephesians 3:16), did it have an effect on the people he prayed for? What's going on in the spiritual realm when we pray? Let's be real Christians and pray. R.O.A. could've used it. Stryper can use it. We're a family. We need each other's prayers.—ed)

MOSHING IT UP

I am 14 years old and love hardcore, slamming groups such as The Crucified and Believer. I was at Cornerstone and moshed at The Crucified's set. To all the critics against Christian moshing, I would just like to inform them that the "pit" was handled extremely well and safely. If someone fell, the whole circle stopped and

that person was helped up.

In the high school that I go to, if you go around saying, "Jesus loves you" to everyone, people will close their ears immediately. It took Christian thrash music to open the ears and hearts of MANY of my friends. Like Jesus said, a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. How then, can what results from the good tree, Christian thrash music, be bad?

I am in a small, youth group thrash band. I've seen physical injuries, as well as salvation at our concerts. I know that God is smiling at all of the souls that are saved as a result of Christian thrash music. I am too.

On a more serious note, I read that David Raymond Reeves quit Neon Cross. What's his present situation?

—Jeff Foote

Wheeling IL

—(David is in a hot band called Trilogy, which I'm sure you'll be hearing more from soon.—ed)

PEN PALZ

Have you ever thought of having a pen palz corner? Also, when will Divine Right/Brando bring an album out on Frontline? Has Soldier signed up?

—Steve McGowan, 24 Jocelyn Ave
Belfast, BT69AX, Northern Ireland

—(I don't have the space for a pen pal section, but Take A Stand, a great monthly newsletter, does. Write 'em at: PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271. Frontline decided they didn't want to sign either of the aforementioned bands.—ed)

I'M A BELIEVER

God bless you! I have enjoyed HM since my first one, #21. It's got everything that I wanted in a magazine, especially Christian. I want to see an interview with the #1 Christian thrash band, BELIEVER...also pictures and tour dates. I started a Believer fan club in my hometown. Please continue with your hard and excellent work.

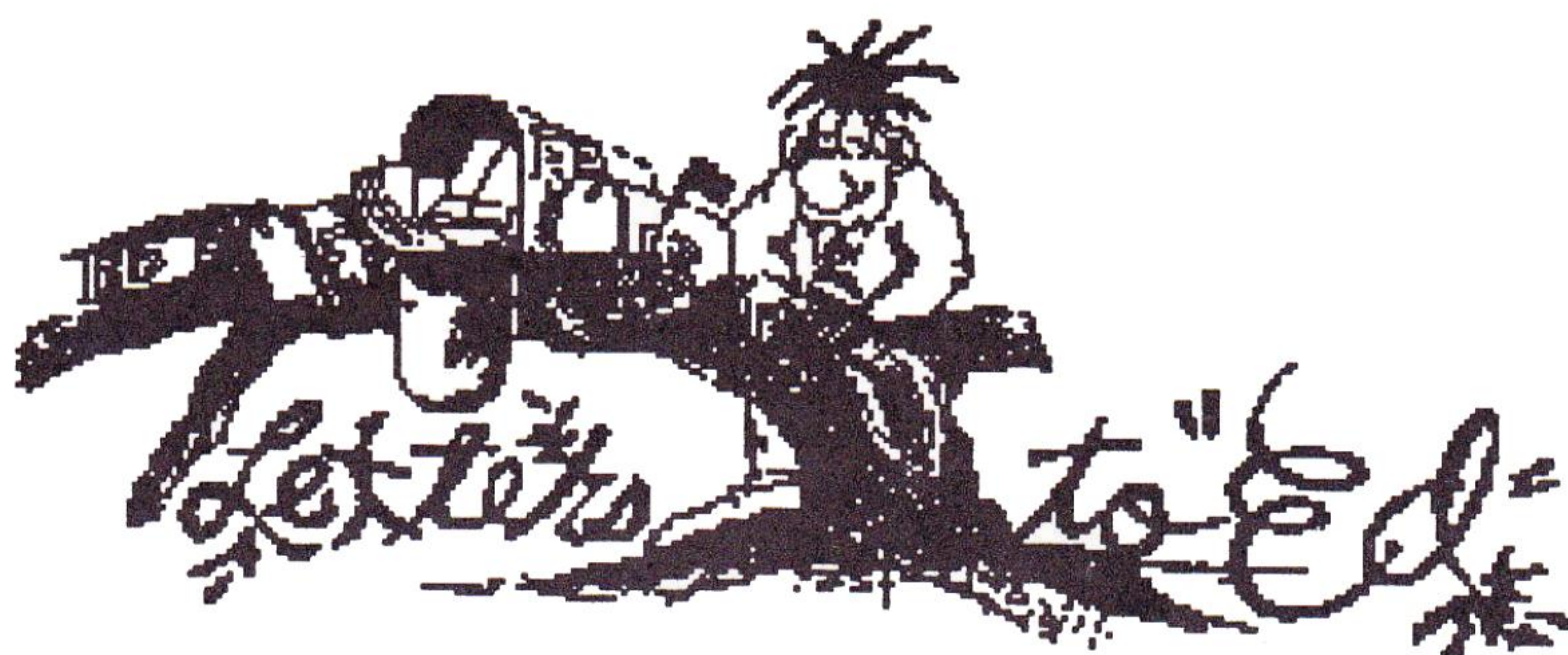
—Carlos Marquez, 35th St. P. 9
Sans Souci, Bayamon PR 00620

—(You'll love Issue #24 then, because—along with Holy Soldier and Crucified—you'll read an article on Believer. Because the touring for bands is growing, you'll now start to see more tour dates as well.—ed)

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

What happened to Emerald and what are they doing? Same with Divine Right.

Letters To Ed cont'd on next page



--Charles Webb
Shelby NC

--(David Enos has left Emerald to form Seventh Sign--see review this issue. As for Divine Right, I guess Kevin is still cranking away, looking for a record deal.--ed)

MR. POSTMAN

I wanted to write to update my new address for my subscription...I knew I should have written sooner, and as a result of my procrastination, my copy of #21 has gotten lost in the post office change of address system. That, of course, was my fault (and I assume that you did send it to me) so I'm including a check for \$3 for another copy.

--Debbie

Coral Springs FL

--(Thanks for paying for the lost issue! That was kind. Unfortunately, the post office does not forward much third class mail, which is how I mail HM. As a result, your original copy was probably just thrown away by a postal worker. I'm glad you wrote and mentioned this, so I can make it a point to warn other subscribers to write and notify me of any address changes. Thanks and God bless you.--ed)

"NO TIME" Essay Contest WINNERS!

First Place: "Blinded Eyes Unveiled"

By Corbet Clack
Phoenix, Arizona

Clenching the compact disc in my hand, I quickly threw open the front door, raced down the hallway, and ran into my room. "Thank goodness no one is home," I sighed. Inwardly I knew, that for this disc to work, it must be played LOUDLY; consequently I cherished the absolute volume control I possessed. As I deliberately loaded the CD player, how could I have prepared for the events to follow?

Opening with the powerful track "Victory", the speakers erupted with a wondrous fidelity. The grinding crunch of multi-layered guitar chords rhythmically immersed itself in a steady snare beat and scorching vocal intensity. Sure, it had been a rough day at work, but who could belittle this? All I heard was musical ecstasy! Envisioning my own swirling pit, I jumped in and began a reckless mosh around the room. All the frustration of spiritual ineffectiveness, self-condemnation, and utter futility seemed to culminate as I thrashed about. In some twisted sense, there appeared some measure of release. Even so, I heard the bold proclamation:

"...having done all to stand in victory from above...for your victory..."

"Victory," I mumbled. The over-used word seemed to me so alien...so foreign. I longed for the reality...

As the steady barrage of snare and double bass drum came to a sudden halt, I sank onto the bed. My motionless was brief, however, as a saturation of excellent "axe-work" filled the air with "No Time". A plodding, methodic crunch of rhythm guitar coupled with the searing harmony of lead

guitar for a sound that would grab the attention of even the most aspiring musician. Sitting up, I found my head banging in unison to the chord progression. The lyrical statements which followed seemed to interrupt my state of utopia:

"...I've been through the day/ and I don't have the time/ to speak unto friends/ to speak Lord to You..."

"Isn't that my constant cry?" I thought. Somehow the words pricked my callused heart in spite of my argumentative spirit. "But God, come on," I reasoned. "I'm only staying so busy for You (The irony of my logic now seems comical). I have to take a full-time load at school, and above all, I have to work full-time so I can eventually go to a Christian college...you know..."

The argument reassured my convicted spirit with the deadly poison of piety, which lurks in the hearts of many "established" Christians. As I became still, I intently listened as the song continued.

The saga depicted an individual who suddenly finds his earthly existence cut short:

"...At last before the Lord I came/ I stood with downcast eyes..."

Why could my spirit relate so exactly to the emotion of this scenario?

"...He opened up the book and said/ your name I cannot find/ I was once going to write it down/ but I couldn't find the time..."

The heaviness of truth took my breath away, as my legs buckled and my knees hit the ground.

"...No time, no time/ that's my constant cry..."

Excuses fled as I was finally overwhelmed with the futility of my ways. Trapped in a zone of safety I spent years constructing, I rested upon the false foundation of untried spirituality. Christ and only Christ must be our focus and foundation.

Realistically, the song "No Time" did not transform a helplessly lost heathen into a thriving soul seeker. In a real way, however, it touched me forever. "No Time" culminated the work of God in my life with its "no holds barred" proclamation of truth. I was able to recognize my own spiritual inactivity and have since become actively involved in a street-level, evangelistic church. Presently, I am again returning to a life of prayer and study of God's Word, the Bible. My years of life in Christ have taught me the absolute necessity of focus. Thank you, Deliverance, for your part in helping sharpen and strengthen that focus!

Second Place: By Danny del Rosario
Aibonito, Puerto Rico

That song brings to me a special message, because I am a Christian, but, you know, I spend time with Christian metal, reading the Bible, praying and other things, but in my five years of being a Christian, I never told a friend that Jesus loves him or that Jesus is a real friend and He never fails.

When I bought the Deliverance cassette in August and hear God speak to

me, the first thing I do the next day is tell one of my best friends that Jesus can save him and "wants to turn your life from sin to a new life that's happy, free, and new."

After I say that to him, I told him he could go to church with me next Sunday if he wanted. That Sunday, he came to church, and the next Sunday too...And the last Sunday of September, he came to Jesus. I've won my first friend for Jesus. Now he (my friend) and I speak to all the friends we have, that Jesus can make them different.

Now I have time for my friends and for Jesus (#1), and my family.

Please excuse my English. I live in Puerto Rico, and English is not the first language here.

Jesus is the Master!

Congratulations, guys! These were the two grand prize winners chosen by the members of Deliverance. Each of them received a Deliverance T-shirt, sticker, and autographed photograph for their winning efforts.

CONCERT DATES

Rez is touring this Spring. Some of these February dates include Leviticus. Some of the dates have corresponding phone numbers to call for further information. If there's not a number, call the local Christian bookstores and radio stations for info.

REZ

2/8	Phoenix AZ (602) 433-4REZ
2/9	San Diego CA (619) 723-0818
2/10	Costa Mesa CA (714) 979-4422
2/16	Medford OR (503) 772-7638
2/17	Portland OR (503) 288-2809
2/18	Seattle WA (206) 854-7625
2/22	NewWestminster, BC (604) 937-7489
2/23	Wenatchee WA (604) 937-7489
2/24	Spokane WA (509) 326-7026
3/1	Rock Island IL (319) 324-9134
3/2	Kansas City MO 1-800 869-0484
3/3	Omaha NE (402) 721-5012
3/8	Tipton IN (317) 675-6122
3/9	Ft. Wayne IN (219) 484-1029
3/10	St. Louis MO (314) 961-4320 ext. 410
3/11	Oklahoma City OK (405) 728-7700
3/23	Orlando FL (813) 845-8435
3/24	St. Petersburg FL (813) 845-8435
3/25	Ft. Meyers FL (813) 283-5241
4/20	Melbourne, Australia (312) 989-6331
4/21	Sydney, Australia " "
4/22	Adelaide, Australia " "
4/25	Brisbane, Australia " "
4/27	Christchurch, New Zealand " "
4/28	Auckland, New Zealand " "
	SACRED WARRIOR & PARADOX
2/2	Denver CO
2/3	Canon City CO
2/9	Albuquerque NM
2/10	Abilene TX
2/11	San Antonio TX *
2/16	Dallas TX
2/17	Orange TX
2/20	Reed Rumfield/Harlingen TX
2/23	Phoenix AZ
2/24	Phoenix AZ
4/14	Nashville (solo) (615) 833-4149

Concert Dates cont'd on next page

VENGEANCE Cont'd:

can call me at my place or write to me, what have you. They know that they are gonna personally hear back. At least as long as possible. I'm gonna do it myself personally as long as it's possible. I imagine that if we're getting too much mail, I won't be able to answer 'em all specifically, but I'll be able to help as much as I personally can. That's a commitment we've made being a part of the band.

"If you've got questions, talk to us. You don't have to feel like, 'Gee, maybe I shouldn't go talk to 'em. Maybe I'll waste his time.' No. That's what we're here for."

****How are things going with your church?**

"It's wailing man. We're having a good ole time serving the Lord and just being part of the body up in Hollywood, California."

****What kind of people visit the church?**

"All types. Mostly musician-types, but by all means not limited to. It's real casual. I don't know what people perceive it to be. It's real basic actually. We just start at 1:15 in the afternoon instead of 8 or 9 in the morning. I think the one main difference would be the fact that, whereas most churches use traditional music from the past, we've chosen to have actual members of the congregation introduce tunes that have blessed them. We use them as the corporate songs for praise and worship. It's basically a couple guitars, bass, drums."

****You have an associate, I'm sure, that pastors when you're gone.**

"Yeah, George Ochoa of Deliverance. We had another one, Peyton Tuto, but he's gonna be startin' another Sanctuary up in Seattle. He's taking over on this next tour. He used to live with Dave Mustain from Megadeth and did some of their earlier artwork and stuff. He's a BIT graduate and what have you. The Lord's really done a major work in his life.

"After his conversion, he was offered some heavy cash to be doing a secular gig and he abandoned it for the Word of God, which is a blessing. We see the full-on fruit of that in his life right now, being a pastor."

****Do you foresee yourself pastoring full-time if you go out on a major tour?**

"If you take a look at anybody like John McArthur, Raul Reese, or whoever, they're always doing things. I'll continue to pastor the church. When these men are gone, they have a full-on structured body underneath them so the church continues on.

"I think that's one thing I've really stressed in our church. We don't get into this pastor worship, which I've seen at some

churches. 'If the pastor's not there, forget it, the Holy Spirit's gone.' That's just not the case. People need to understand: you come to study the Word of God and come to have the fellowship of believers, regardless of the person who's up there. That person has chosen specific people that he himself entrusts that position to underneath him and expects you to respect him just as much as you'd respect him. It's just as important. When I'm gone, that makes no difference. Whether I live or I die, the Word of God remains. So, I shouldn't be the issue."

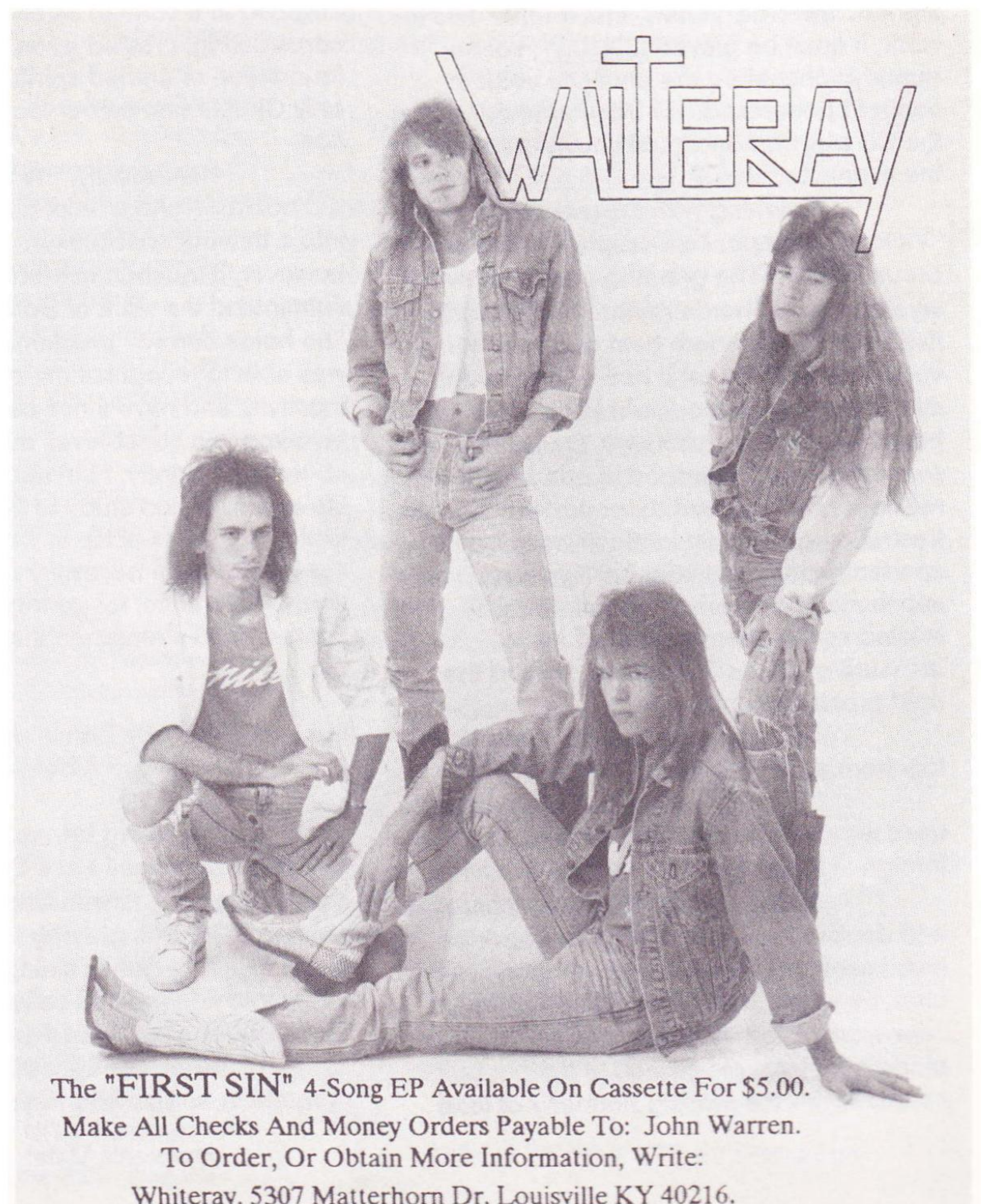
True, especially since Roger Martinez has already died once. It is now Christ who lives in Him. He is the issue, not Roger or Vengeance.

Concert Dates Cont'd:

ONE BAD PIG		
2/3	St. Louis MO *	
2/11	San Antonio TX *	
3/31	Raleigh NC	(919) 787-3252
5/19	Columbus OH	(614) 861-7621
5/26	Chattanooga TN	(615) 266-8793
6/29	Minneapolis MN	(612) 379-2858
DELIVERANCE		
2/3	St. Louis MO *	
3/23	Albuquerque NM	(505) 292-9100
3/26	Topeka KS	(913) 862-0882
3/31	Raleigh NC *	(919) 787-3252
4/5	Boonesboro MD	(301) 293-7627
4/6	Wheeling WV	(304) 233-3783
4/11	Duluth MN	(218) 722-0034

4/12	Wisconsin Rapids WI	(715) 423-2989
4/13	Minneapolis MN	(612) 379-2858
4/14	Minneapolis MN	(612) 379-2858
4/20	Coral Springs FL	(305) 344-9777
4/21	Coral Springs FL	(305) 344-9777
6/23	Columbus OH	(614) 861-7621
	SFC	
2/10	Santa Ana CA	(714) 667-3217
2/17	Tracy CA	(714) 667-3217
3/31	Coral Springs FL	(305) 344-9777
6/28	Creation Festival	(717) 293-4254
	TEMPEST	
1/27	Bellair Bluffs FL	(813) 596-7906
	WHITECROSS	
4/6	Tiffin OH	
4/7	Sellersville PA	
4/14	Lancaster PA	(717) 293-4254
4/19	Asland OH	(419) 289-4251
4/24	Charleston SC	(803) 797-2288
4/26	Spartenburg SC	
4/27	Knoxville TN	(615) 693-6655
4/28	Ichthus KY	
5/4	Millersville MD	
5/14	Allentown PA	
5/15	Rochester NY	
5/16	Clay NY	
5/17	Kingston NY	
5/19	Rocky Hill CT	
5/20	Tarrytown NY	
5/26	Hampton VA	(804) 826-1426
6/9	Columbus OH	(614) 861-7621
6/15	Jesus 90 Fest	(704) 376-4388
6/??	Atlantafest	(404) 955-8669
6/28	Creation Fest	(717) 293-4254
7/6	Sonshine Fest	
7/7	Minneapolis MN	(612) 379-2858
7/??	Fishnet Fest	(703) 636-2961

(* = Combination of bands on same bill)



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ARTIST	TITLE	CS	CD	LP
ANGELICA	Angelica	☐	☐	
APOSTLE	Apostle	☐		
APOSTLE	Hymns	☐		
ARMAGEDDON	Money Mask	☐	☐	
ARMOR	Get Armed	☐		
AXEMEN	Metal Compilation	☐	☐	☐
BARREN CROSS	State Of Control (CD - Add \$2)	☐	☐	☐
BARREN CROSS	Atomic Arena (CD - Add \$2)	☐	☐	☐
BARREN CROSS	Rock For The King	☐	☐	☐
BELIEVER	Extraction From Mortality	☐	☐	☐
BLOODGOOD	Out Of The Darkness	☐	☐	
BLOODGOOD	Bloodgood	☐	☐	
BLOODGOOD	Detonation	☐	☐	
BRIDE	Silence Is Madness	☐	☐	☐
BRIDE	Live To Die	☐	☐	☐
CALIFORNIA METAL I	Metal Compilation	☐	☐	☐
CALIFORNIA METAL II	Metal Compilation	☐	☐	☐
CHOSEN STRANGER	Chosen Stranger	☐		
CREED	Sign Of Victory	☐	☐	☐
CRUCIFIED, THE	Crucified (Hardcore)	☐	☐	☐
DELIVERANCE	Deliverance	☐	☐	
DELIVERANCE	Greetings Of Death (\$6.98)	☐		
DIVINE RIGHT	Tongues Of Fire	☐		
DIVINE RIGHT	Power Change	☐		
EAST COAST METAL	Metal Compilation	☐	☐	☐
ETERNAL RYTE	Anthem (Feb. 23)	☐	☐	☐
GUARDIAN	First Watch	☐	☐	
HEAVY RIGHTEOUS METAL I	Metal Compilation	☐	☐	☐
HEAVY RIGHTEOUS METAL II	Metal Compilation	☐	☐	☐
HOLY SOLDIER	Holy Soldier (Feb. 23)	☐	☐	
JERUSALEM	Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent	☐	☐	☐
JERUSALEM (Double - Add \$2)	10 Years Later	☐	☐	☐
JOSHUA	Intense Defense (\$11.98/\$15.98)	☐	☐	
JOSHUA	Surrender (\$11.98)	☐	☐	☐
KEAGGY, PHIL	Prime Cuts (\$11.98/\$15.98)	☐	☐	☐
KINGS X (CD - Add \$2)	Gretchen Goes To Nebraska	☐	☐	☐
KINGS X (CD - Add \$2)	Out Of The Silent Planet	☐	☐	☐
LEAD, THE	Automolach	☐		
LEAD, THE	Burn This Record	☐	☐	
LEAD, THE	Past Behind	☐	☐	☐
LEVITICUS	Knights Of Heaven	☐	☐	☐
LEVITICUS	Setting Fire To The Earth	☐	☐	☐
LIGHTFORCE	Mystical Thieves	☐	☐	☐
MANSFIELD, DARRELL	"Live"	☐		
MARTYR	Imminent Warfare (Thrash)	☐		
MARTYR	Frantic	☐		
MARYTR	Death Is Dead	☐		
MASS	Voices In The Night	☐	☐	☐
MASTEDON	It's A Jungle Out There	☐	☐	

Alternate Music Choice to be sent in the event a release is delayed or discontinued

ARTIST	TITLE	CS	CD	LP
MERCY RULE	Overruled	☐	☐	
MESSIAH PROPHET	Master Of The Metal	☐	☐	☐
NEON CROSS	Neon Cross	☐	☐	☐
ONE BAD RIG	Smash	☐	☐	☐
PARADOX	Ruler	☐		
PARADOX	Power & Glory	☐		
PETRA	Petra Means Rock	☐	☐	
REZ	Innocent Blood (Nov. 24)	☐	☐	
REZ	Between Heaven & Hell	☐		
ROSANNA'S RAIDERS	Clothed In Fire	☐	☐	☐
ROSSI BAND	Sooner Or Later	☐	☐	☐
SACRED WARRIOR	Rebellion (CD - add \$2)	☐	☐	☐
SACRED WARRIOR	Masters Command	☐	☐	☐
SAINT	Time's End	☐	☐	☐
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Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He was crucified, murdered, slain, sacrificed, killed, slaughtered, assassinated, taken down, carried off, and buried. He died for a purpose. "He was led like a lamb to the slaughter" (Isaiah 53:7) as a sacrifice for our sins.

"Each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him" (Isaiah 53:6). Our iniquity, our sin, deserves the judgement and penalty of death. God's plan was that Jesus would take our place and suffer the penalty we deserve. His death was a substitutionary death. He substituted Himself for us.

The executioners checked up on Jesus to make sure He was dead. When they saw that He was dead, one of them "pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water" (John 19:34). He was dead alright.

One of His secret disciples, Joseph of Arimathea, took the dead body of the Messiah, the Savior of the world, and laid it in a fresh tomb cut out of rock. His body was wrapped in linen mixed with myrrh and aloes.

The entrance to the tomb was closed off by a large stone. The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate, the Governor who handed Jesus over to the executioners for His death, to get permission to have the tomb heavily guarded; for they remember Jesus claiming that He would rise from the dead after three days. "Take a guard," Pilate said, "Go and make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the stone secure

by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard (Matthew 27:65-66).

The Roman seals in those days were a legal way of making sure that no one broke into the tomb. The Roman guard posted outside the grave numbered from between 10 and 30 strong men, who were trained in hand-to-hand combat.

On the third day, our Sunday, "there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from Heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it...the guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men" (Matthew 28:2-4).

Two of the women, who helped bury Jesus two days before, came to the empty tomb and met two angels that gleamed like lightning, who said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen!" (Luke 24:5-6)

The physical body of Jesus of Nazareth overcame death and was raised back to life. In the process of becoming a Christian, being born again or regenerated, your old nature dies and a new one comes to life.

"Our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin" (Romans 6:6-7).

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for

me" (Galatians 2:20).

"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:24-25).

Our old, sinful nature has been crucified, executed, killed, slaughtered, slain, and totally put to death. We have been raised to new life in Christ. "Old things have passed away" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Jesus has set us free from sin to live a life of obedience to Him. The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit gives us power to live over sin.

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14).

If you are tempted to sin, remember that your old nature, the "old man", is dead and buried. The power that sin held over us has been broken by Jesus.

If you have never experienced this death and resurrection in your life...If you are not a Christian, you can be set free from sin. Turn to Jesus.

Once your old nature is crucified and you are resurrected into new life in Christ, you will not have to suffer the penalty that you deserve, which is the second and final death (Revelation 2:11; 20:6,14; 21:8).

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him Who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24).



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